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Legal row over disowned twins

Mother challenges gap in fertility law

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

AN UNMARRIED mother is fighting an unprecedented High Court case to have her 62-year-old partner declared the legal father of twins born to the couple as a result of donor insemination abroad.

European Community law. The Government regards the issue as so important that the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, briefed lawyers to defend the legislation.

Under the act, if an unmarried couple have fertility treatment in Britain and a baby results, the man is deemed to be the legal father. But no such rule applies if the couple live in Britain but undergo treatment abroad.

There's a case for saying the man should support the children if he agreed to the insemination. The professional couple, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, live in England but travelled to another European member state for treatment.

Under the terms on which Britain signed up to the EC, any national law which is inconsistent with a provision of EC law is automatically overruled by the conflicting community law.

The judge could refer the case to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg for a ruling. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which enforces the act, is keeping a neutral stance.

The case is thought to be the first in which lawyers have sought to strike down UK legislation in the family sphere on the basis of conflict with EC law.

Ministries to be sued over E. coli

Sarah Boseley

THE parents of seven children who became ill after eating meat contaminated with E. coli 0157 bacteria have been granted legal aid to sue the Government for failing to warn the public of the risks in undercooking beef.

All seven children live in England, but their lawyers are in discussions with lawyers in Scotland, where yesterday it was announced that two more people, a 76-year-old man and a 78-year-old woman, had died in the food poisoning epidemic, bringing the toll to 15.

The number with symptoms remains at 406, which the Scottish Office and health boards believe suggests the outbreak is under control. There are 235 confirmed cases, but more confirmations are expected.

Legal aid has been granted so that a test case can be brought against the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Health for negligence, hopefully within 12 months.

Lucy Kennedy, of Howe and Co in west London, acting for the children, called the case ground-breaking. The first outbreak of E. coli 0157 infection in the United States occurred in 1982 and in Britain in 1983. In the US, government had ensured that the public knew beef must be cooked until no pink remained — the infection could be killed by two minutes at 70C — and there were warnings on packaging.

In Britain, there was a government advisory committee report published in 1985 which recommended in-

bellings, but nothing was done," Ms Kennedy said. The committee had also recommended more research into the infection in cattle, but again nothing had happened.

Children are in particular danger from this strain of E. coli, which attacks the kidneys. Two are on dialysis in Yorkhill hospital, Glasgow.

Children who are infected may suffer serious health problems in later life. Professor Richard Lacey, of the medical microbiology department of Leeds University, has estimated that up to 100 people might die in Scotland — 25 per cent of those with symptoms — in years to come because of the long-term effects of the infection on their kidneys and blood-pressure.

Three of the children in England with legal aid are allegedly infected beefburgers. The other four ate infected meat at a barbecue in Stokes. "In all these cases, the children's parents say had they known of the existence of the bacteria, they would have taken precautions to ensure it had not happened," Ms Kennedy said. "It can be cooked out."

Prof Lacey believes there have been inadequate safeguards and controls in the storage and cooking of beef. "The storage of cooked foods is wrong," he said. "It is allowed in a temperature of 8F for an indefinite period. In the health service, it is 3F for no more than three clear days. No E. coli 0157 has been acquired from health service catering."

The death toll in Scotland is now the second highest from E. coli 0157 infection on record, exceeded by the 19 who died at an old people's home in Canada in 1985.



Chess player Luke McShane, aged 12, who yesterday achieved Britain's youngest International Master norm by sharing second prize in the Caledonian Masters. Matthew Sadler had held the record at 13. Sport, page 15 PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACKENZIE

Polls back duke in handgun row

Ernest Clouston and Alex Bellon

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday apologised to relatives of those shot in the Dumblane massacre for any offence caused by his criticism of proposed gun controls, but opinion polls showed considerable support for his stand.

The duke sparked a furore during a BBC radio interview last night, in which he criticised legislation targeting gun clubs, saying that cricket bats could be as lethal as handguns. He later apologised to relatives of the Dumblane victims, but a Buckingham Palace spokesman said he did not retract his views.

Three polls gave the impression that many people were behind the duke. At the New Golf Club in Dumblane, the vast majority of golfers were as dangerous as gun owners. "Somebody's got to speak out for the shooters," one said. "You can't start telling other people how to live their lives."

"You can batter someone with a hockey stick; anything's lethal," another added.



Bob Niven, a retired hospital organiser, said: "The parents of the murdered children have all the support of the Dumblane people but now, like the Duke of Edinburgh, the rest of us feel that every one should settle down and get back to an ordinary way of life again."

The duke made his comments during a BBC Radio 5 Live interview in which he was asked about the bill to

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Tories admit £50m cuts will hit war pensioners

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS have admitted that the planned changes in war pension rules will hit armed forces veterans and save millions of pounds for the Treasury.

When the Guardian disclosed that cuts worth £50 million a year had been slipped through the Budget as "simplification" of the rules, ministers accused the newspaper of scaremongering.

John Major said last week in the Commons that the Guardian's reports had been "disgraceful" and had made

selective use of leaked information. However, written answers to parliamentary questions have confirmed the basis of the reports — including savings figures that ministers had previously sought to cast doubt on.

Oliver Heald, junior social security minister, has acknowledged that the package of changes out for consultation will, as the Guardian reported, produce net annual savings of £15 million by 1999.

Added to the £36 million eventual annual savings from the separate tightening of the criteria for deafness pensions — a change ministers claim is being forced on them by medical advice — the total

The Guardian War pensions cover-up

Ministers cut £50m of veterans' cash

cut in war pension spending comes to the reported £50 million.

Mr Heald has not confirmed that the £15 million package will create 7,000-10,000 losers in the case of an unemployment supplement and about 100 a year in the case of war widows' rent allowance, which is to be phased out.

The planned changes will stop veterans and widows making fresh claims: 800 a year in the case of a mobility supplement for disabled ex-service personnel; 400 more annually in the case of an unemployment supplement; and about 100 a year in the case of war widows' rent allowance, which is to be phased out.

"Two issues have been run together in a... misleading way by the Guardian. If the right honourable gentleman relies on the Guardian for his information, that explains why he is so often inaccurate in his questions," John Major to Tony Blair, December 9

The minister has declined to answer questions on some other of the changes on grounds of the "disproportionate cost" of doing so.

The questions were put down by John Denham, Labour's pensions spokesman. He said last night: "I am calling on the Prime Minister to come clean and admit that the Budget is going to deny benefits to war pensioners who would have received them under current rules."

"The parliamentary replies appear to make it perfectly clear that these cuts in the spending programme go well beyond administrative savings," administrative

Inside: Fewer than half of European Union inhabitants think their country's membership is a good thing, found an EU survey.

World News: An FBI man thought to have sold secrets to the Russians was arrested after his wife, also a bureau employee, told the FBI her suspicions.

Finance: Labour said it may take away the London Metal Exchange's right to operate as a self-regulatory body unless it agrees to reforms.

Sport: Frank Clark quit his manager's job at Nottingham Forest, the Premier League's bottom club, after a row over his salary.

Comment and Letters by: Obituaries 10, Friday Review, Crossword 15, Weather 16, Radio 16, TV 16



SEND A BABY BOX TO BOSNIA THIS CHRISTMAS FOR ONLY £30

Disinfectant, nappies, washing materials — not what you'd think of giving someone for Christmas. But for an impoverished mother in Bosnia trying to keep her child safe from infection, these basic essentials would mean the world.

It would also mean that someone somewhere is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child.

Children's Aid Direct has delivered baby boxes full of essential items directly into the hands of 33,000 mothers in Bosnia — many of whom will be living in war-damaged housing and in very basic conditions this winter.

Please, if you possibly can, send a baby box to Bosnia this Christmas — and help a mother keep her baby safe.

- What's inside: 18 nappies (100% cotton-wool), 200 nappy liners, 2 baby pins, 1 baby gown, 3 pairs plastic baby pants, 100 baby wipes in a tub, 100 baby socks, 300ml baby shampoo, 250-300ml baby lotion, 250-300ml baby oil, 400g block washing soap, feeding bowl and 2 spoons, teething ring, disinfecting liquid.

With love from a friend...

Call 0990 606010 now to tell us how many baby boxes you would like to send.

OR please complete and return this form.

Please send me baby box(es) of £30 each on my behalf.

I enclose a cheque for £ (total) made payable to Children's Aid Direct

OR please debit £ from my Visa / Access / Switch

Card number / Expiry date / Signature

Name (print) / Address / Postcode

Telephone

If you would like to send a package to a Bosnia mother, please send a note with your donation and we will put it in your baby box. Please send to: Children's Aid Direct, Dept 477, FREEPOST, Reading, RG1 1PL.

Children's Aid Direct logo and contact information

Handwritten signature: J.P. 10/12/96

2 NEWS

Sketch

'Tis season to be jolly profitable



Martin Wainwright

It was when commuters started bumping his cows off the narrow cut-through of Warm Lane, in the crumpled foothills of the Yorkshire Pennines, that John Gaythorpe started down the path to being Mr Christmas Tree of north-west Leeds. At the time, his low-slung farmhouse with its 1624 date-stone — "the oldest house in Yeadon, at least that's what they tell me" — was a picture-book farm with like miniature milkers and Gloucester Old Spot pigs. Up the lane at Greenside Farm, his neighbours kept a similar small herd, while his picked about on the roadside verges and both families did a desultory trade in eggs. Not any more. Even with every southerner's idea of Yorkshire weather sweeping foully in from Siberia yesterday, Warm Lane and Greenside farms were like miniature Asdas. Families queued for the huge range of sticks, blue spruce, Douglas firs and armeria pines piled up in Mr Gaythorpe's old milking yard. At the Emsleys', children goggled at three rumped-long-necked ostriches and made yucking noises at the farmshop special offer: Emu steak for £15 a pound. "There isn't a farmer these days who hasn't had to diversify," says Mr Gaythorpe, drying out with his cat and his wife Sheila in front of Warm Lane farm's roaring fire. While the nation is plunged into rancorous controversy about BSE, E. coli and the ethics of mass production, thousands of English's small-scale farmers are following colourful paths. NFU could stand for Nothing Feels Unthinkable now. "The trees astonished us," says Mrs Gaythorpe contentedly, except for the couple of lads from Bradford council's old woodyard down the lane at Esbolt sewage works knocked

on the farmhouse door to beg a favour. "They'd been thinning the woods and thought they might be able to sell a few trees at Christmas-time, rather than burn them. We're on a busier road, so they asked: why don't you see if you can sell us some?" Next afternoon, Mrs Gaythorpe was on the phone for another delivery, and Warm Lane's staple trade has never looked back. It was just in time for the family, who'd got fed up with trying to covetail their milking times with the commute-to-Leeds round of the new and sprawling Westfield estate. Andrew Emsley's ostriches were eggs in South Africa but hatched in Preston (on Christmas Day last year) and now sit in Greenside's damp paddock, looking like particularly vexed pensioners on the Gullesey bus. The farmshop's 24.50 ostrich pies don't contain their relatives, but are helping to bring in customers. Mr Emsley says: "We got them as an attraction really, for the kiddies to look at while their mums and dads do some shopping. But they breed after 2 1/2 years, so we're hoping to sell the eggs for someone else to hatch. The great are they poultry or livestock? debate about ostriches has reached Warm Lane, where a huge wire double-fence now surrounds the birds' usual feed. "As far as keeping them goes, they're not poultry or livestock but 'dangerous wild animals'," says Mr Emsley. "I'm not sure it would be any worse than an angry cow, but they can give you quite a kick." The till chimed up a healthy bill for five emu steaks for a delighted local woman ("No, it's not an alternative Christmas lunch, just a party this weekend"), while down at the Gaythorpes', John and Sheila ruminated cheerfully on the northern weather's abrupt shift from autumn damp to a keen wind and snow. "First time this happened — the weekend before a Christmas tree," while down at the Gaythorpes', John and Sheila ruminated cheerfully on the northern weather's abrupt shift from autumn damp to a keen wind and snow. "First time this happened — the weekend before a Christmas tree," while down at the Gaythorpes', John and Sheila ruminated cheerfully on the northern weather's abrupt shift from autumn damp to a keen wind and snow. "First time this happened — the weekend before a Christmas tree," while down at the Gaythorpes', John and Sheila ruminated cheerfully on the northern weather's abrupt shift from autumn damp to a keen wind and snow.

British hostage experts fly to Lima as stand-off continues With rebels holding hundreds of dignitaries SAS officers head for Peru

Ian Black in London and Jane Diaz-Lamasco in Lima

BRITISH anti-terrorist team including SAS officers was last night flying to the Peruvian capital, Lima, where armed guerrillas were holding up to 400 people in the Japanese ambassador's residence while demanding the release of a similar number of rebels from prison. The group of up to a dozen specialists will help the British ambassador in dealing with the hostage crisis, the Foreign Office said. Talks were taking place yesterday between the Peruvian government and about 20 members of the Marxist Tupac Amaru guerrilla group — two of whom were said to be women — who seized the residence on Tuesday during an official reception. President Alberto Fujimori, who has cracked down hard on Peru's rebel groups, is of Japanese extraction. The rebels seem to have thought he might attend the reception. Troops and police were last night surrounding the residence compound, which sits behind a 15ft-high wall topped by a 10ft-high electric fence. The police — who say the rebels have an arsenal of rifles, machine-guns, ammunition and grenades — had marksmen on nearby roofs. The SAS officers are from the Hereford headquarters of the elite unit, which carried out the Iranian embassy hostage rescue in London in 1980. The team also includes civilians with counter-terrorist and negotiation experience and experts in communications and intelligence-gathering. Germany was sending counter-terrorist officials, while the United States was flying in a group of "security advisers" to join FBI agents. Roger Church, the deputy head of mission at the British embassy in Lima, is among those being held. He is aged 50, has been allowed to telephone his embassy three times and was reported to be unharmed yesterday. The Foreign Office's new counter-terrorist policy department has been organising Whitehall's response to



Troops keep the press at a safe distance from the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, where dignitaries are being held hostage

the crisis. It can call on the resources of the military as well as the police, Home Office, MI5 and MI6. The rebels had threatened to kill the hostages if their comrades were not freed, and the group's commander, Emilio Fuentes, demanded to speak directly to Mr Fujimori. But no new deadline was set yesterday, and Whitehall sources said: "We see a process of readiness to negotiate, which is better than the early threats to kill people."

Supervising the negotiations is a mini-cabinet including the education minister, Domingo Palermo, who was talking by phone to the guerrillas. The Red Cross has been shuttling water and food into the compound, and a doctor, Lio Fuentes, demanded to speak directly to Mr Fujimori. But no new deadline was set yesterday, and Whitehall sources said: "We see a process of readiness to negotiate, which is better than the early threats to kill people."

minister, Yukihiko Ikeda, was last night on his way. Reports in Peru say some of the country's leading police officers are among those being held. They include the head of strategy at the anti-subversion police, Maximo Rivera, and his predecessor, Juan Carlos Dominguez, who was in charge of the operation during last year's Tupac Amaru siege in Lima, when the group's number two, Miguel Kinca, was captured. At least a dozen ambassa-

dors from countries including Japan, Brazil, Cuba and South Korea are being held. Peru's foreign and agriculture ministers, the president of the supreme court and dozens of Japanese business people were also inside. The police acknowledge that the operation has been planned over months, despite the fact that intelligence reports said the group was disorganised or even dismantled.

But the attackers are now believed to have burst in through a hole blasted in the wall of a neighbouring building. It seems that at least some of them arrived in a van disguised as an ambulance. The police acknowledge that the operation has been planned over months, despite the fact that intelligence reports said the group was disorganised or even dismantled.

Review

Classic that gets better with age

Michael Billington

THE National is supposedly a repertory theatre. But whatever reservations one has about the policy of giving Guys and Dolls a straight run in the Olivier until Easter are outweighed by the sheer vitality of Richard Eyre's production. If anything, it seems even better than it did 14 years ago. It helps, of course, that the show is a classic. A musical is only as good as its book and this one, adapted by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows from Damon Runyon's Broadway tales, has a sublime wit. Even the fundamental idea is witty: that a tough gambler such as Sky Masterson, who accepts a bet that he can seduce a misanthropic, should turn out to be a natural soul-saving recruit. On top of that the show brims with lines that are both funny in themselves and stem from character: when the Hot Box girl, Miss Adelaide, says of her fiancé, Nathan Detroit: "I always thought how wonderful he would be if he was a different man," it says something about the eternal battle of the sexes. And Frank Loesser's music and lyrics, although conceived first, grow organically and easily out of the storyline. Indeed, they take us back to a lost era when musicals were not overweening pop-operas but instruments of delight pitched halfway between reality and fantasy. Eyre's production, John Gunter's astonishing neon-lit designs and David Turgin's unbeatable choreogra-

phy capture precisely that blend of reality and fable. The title song, for instance, is staged against a background of a real Rocky Theatre where Scarlet Street, obliquely alluded to in the lyrics, is actually playing. But when Sky and Sarah Brown take off for Cuba we are in a fantasy world where bar-rooms erupt in bloodless violence and suddenly dissolve into vistas of paradisaic, star-kissed beaches. The approach if almost filmic in that real people are seen in a dream landscape. The cast is also every bit as good as it was in 1982 — sometimes better. Imelda Staunton, formerly a Hot Box hooper, has now graduated to a perfect Miss Adelaide: alightly vulgar in her leopard-skin shoes but also sadly vulnerable in her longing for marriage and sensibly intelligent in her realisation that getting a man to the altar comes before character-alteration. Henry Goodman's Nathan Detroit with his lunging, tough-shooting gait, is the epitome of the small-time fixer. Clarke Peters lends Sky a fine mixture of stylish charm and natural conscience and Clive Rowe, eyes always lighting up at the prospect of nibbles, is an ideal Nicely-Nicely. My only quibbles would be that Joanna Riding's missionary heroine could do with a bit more grit and that the encors to Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat have turned into Gilbert and Sullivan rituals. But this is a superb show that comes up fresh as paint and proves the musical can be not just a source of pleasure but also a work of art. This review has already appeared in some editions.

£250,000 for tackle that ended soccer career

Ex-player first to win damages after ground-breaking ruling

Nick Varley Sport Correspondent

PROFESSIONAL footballer whose career was ended by an opponent's tackle yesterday won an estimated £250,000 in a ground-breaking court case. Brian McCord, formerly of Stockport County, became the first player to win a High Court ruling for damages against another player and his club. Other professionals who have sued opponents have either lost their cases or seen them settled before they came to court. McCord, aged 28, who has been on income support since the incident almost four years ago, said he was delighted with Mr Justice Kennedy's decision. "It's been a very long wait and I'm glad it's all over. I took the action because I believed it to be the right thing to do. "But I would rather have had my career intact than any amount of compensation."

The key issue was whether the tackle was high and aimed at the legs or the ball. This was the point on which former Chelsea player, Paul Elliott, lost a £1 million damages claim against Dean Saunders, now of Nottingham Forest, and his then club, Liverpool, two years ago. A judge ruled that Elliott launched a reckless challenge and Saunders injured him in trying to jump out of the way. In the latest case Wales manager Bobby Gould, a spectator at the game, told the court: "I think it was a dreadful tackle with no attempt to play the ball." Walter Williams, the Football League's assessor of the match refereeing, said the tackle was among the worst three he had seen in 40 years. The referee awarded a freekick after the linesman flagged for a late tackle. But Cornforth was not booked or sent off. None of the Stockport players remonstrated with him, the judge noted. He concluded that, although he understood why many witnesses said Cornforth was playing the man, "that was not my conclusion", particularly as he had

a reputation as a fair player. But he added that the tackle was "inconsistent" with taking reasonable care. He stressed the ruling did not create a precedent: "It does not follow that those who play football do not consent to the risk of injury. "There are very few professional footballers who assert that they have never fallen below the standards expected of them and if they do they are not to be believed."

McCord, of Chaddesden, Derbyshire, who is studying for a physiotherapy degree at Salford university, won £50,000 as interim payment for his pain and loss of earnings. The final figure — to be paid by Swansea City's insurers — will be decided next year. McCord's solicitor, John England, said: "I believe it is time for the sporting bodies to devise some system of compensation without redress to the courts."

But Mr Taylor said discussions about such a system had proved fruitless. "We did take a look at a no-fault insurance scheme but it was felt it would not be in favour of fair play and would cost millions of pounds." Cornforth, aged 29, who last week joined Wycombe Wanderers, said: "I'm disappointed by the decision but now I just want to get back to playing — and wish all the best to Brian."

The other side of the soccer story: Little cash, little hope

AS BRIAN McCord lay in hospital recovering from his injury, he knew his financial and footballing future was in ruins. From earning around £20,000 a year, he would have to find a job away from the only profession he knew. He left school at 15 and joined Derby County as an apprentice. He later signed as a professional and spent four years at the club. He was transferred to Barnsley before Stockport paid £100,000 for him in 1992. Aged 24 at the time of the accident, he could have expected at least 10 more years playing professionally, earning perhaps £200,000. But all he was entitled to when forced to quit was around £25,000 from the standard payouts sanctioned by the Professional Footballers' Association. Any member of the union who has to retire through injury is paid a one-off insurance cheque of £25,000.



Brian McCord after the ruling

In addition, he receives six months pay from his contract — around £10,000 in McCord's case — and benefits from the club, usually including a testimonial — perhaps another £10,000. Players sometimes have additional insurance which the clubs are considerable but the premium rate of about one per cent can be prohibitive. Leading play-

ers have to pay thousands of pounds a year for it. McCord, who was on legal aid, was left with no option but to sue to recover his lost earnings. After his court victory, he said: "I will now be able to repay all the friends who have helped me get by and perhaps I shall now be able to buy a few Christmas presents."

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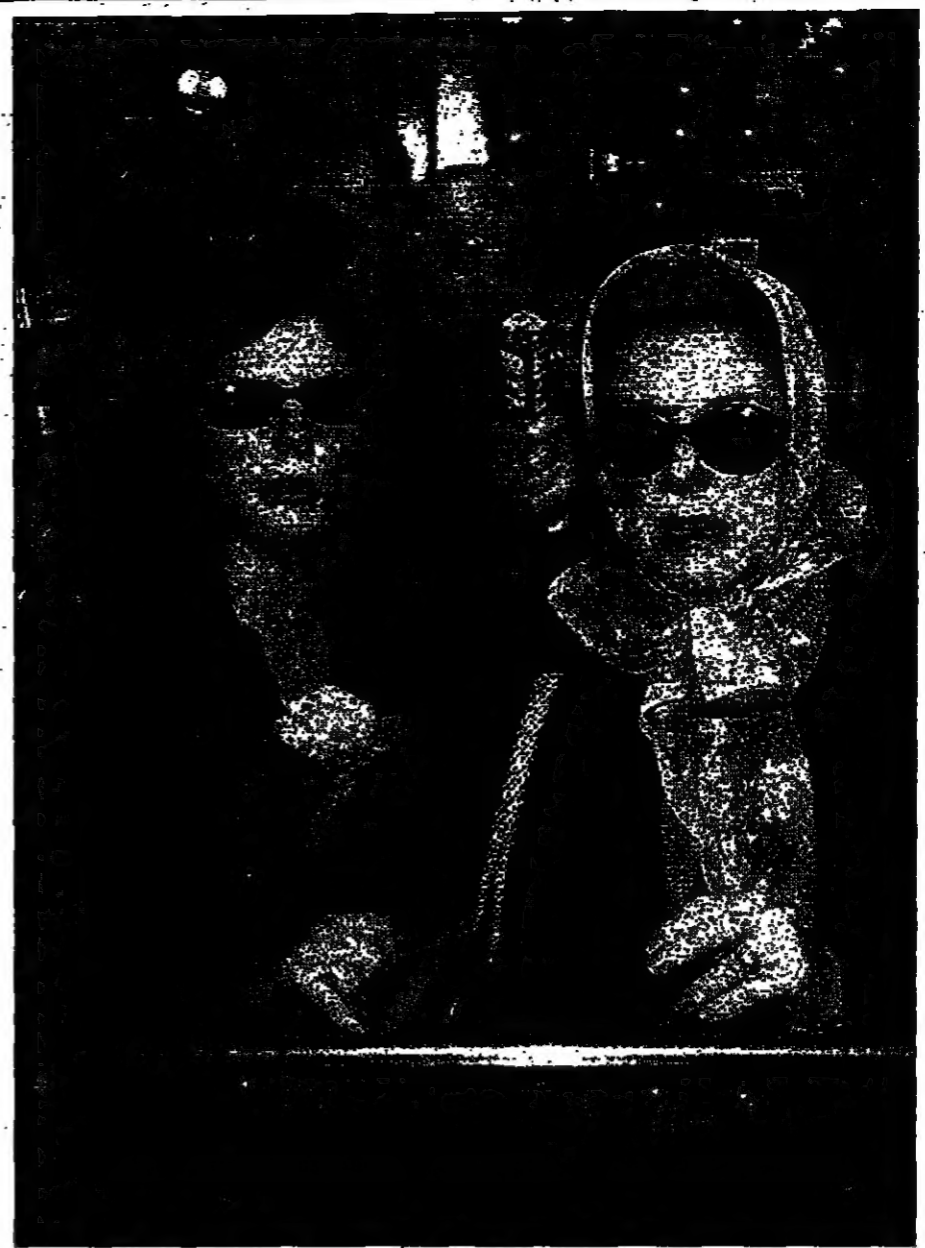
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Mastroianni (left) and Sophia Loren in 1970 on the set in Padua of *The Priest's Wife*, directed by Dino Risì (centre)

Marcello on Mastroianni:

'I seem to have been making the same film all my life. There's a kind of sadness, a kind of yearning for what might have been, or what might just still be. I think I appeal best to those who have known romantic disappointment. I express best that life's difficult but that you have to go on'



Catherine Deneuve and Chiara Mastroianni in Paris yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENT RESOUES

Screen legend Marcello Mastroianni dies

Derek Malcolm, the Guardian's film critic, looks back at the distinguished acting career of the man known as Il Bel Marcello

MARCELLO Mastroianni, for almost 40 years one of European cinema's international stars, has died, aged 73. He had pancreatic cancer. His former partner, Catherine Deneuve, the French actress, and his two daughters — Chiara, Deneuve's child and also an actress, and Barbara, by his wife Flora, whom he left but never divorced — were at his side at his home in Paris.

It was not a tag he appreciated. "I'm not a sex addict, I'm an actor just doing a job," he once said, adding that he was only cast as the journalist in Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, his first big international success, because he had, according to the director, "a terribly ordinary face".

His fans — in Italy they called him *Il Bel Marcello* — would hardly agree. Even in his last years, he remained an inimitably handsome figure, often walking through his films with a resigned air that suggested a lifetime of romantic disasters. He was a consummate screen actor whose lasting axiom was: "The less you do, the better you do it". Though he had many offers from Hollywood, he remained ad-

ment that European films suited him better. This year, although obviously unwell, he appeared at the Cannes festival to support his latest film, Raoul Ruiz's *Three Lives and Only One Death*, in which he had the difficult task of playing three characters who turn out to be the same person. Only the fact that international juries at Cannes had already given him two best actor prizes prevented him winning a third. His modesty, which allowed him to help less experienced actors and actresses in his films by insisting — sometimes unsuccessfully — on not hogging the screen, was renewed. But Visconti, who used him in *White Nights* in 1987 after he had been a member of the director's amateur theatre company in the immediate post-war years, said: "If you have Marcello in your film, you have to use him most of the time. Why? Because he expresses so much, just by looking at or past the camera. That's his quality. You can imagine what you

like about life and love — it is all in his beautiful, melancholy face." The distinguished French producer Toscani du Plantier called him "perhaps the greatest European actor of the last 50 years". He was not an immediate screen success. After a good early career on the stage, he appeared in a number of Italian films that did not show his real qualities. But after playing the womanising journalist in *La Dolce Vita* he found himself much in demand. Antonioni cast him to great effect in the mysterious *La Notte*. Fellini used him as his alter ego in *8½* and America noticed with delight his performance as the effete Sicilian in Pietro Germi's *Divorce, Italian Style*, and then in De Sica's *Marriage, Italian Style*. Later, the British director John Boorman used him to great effect as a rich benefactor in *Leo The Last*.

He recently said he could remember only about 10 moments in his work very clearly. "I seem to have been making the same film all my life." When asked what that film was, he said: "There's a kind of sadness, a kind of yearning for what might have been, or what might just still be. I think I appeal best to those who have known romantic disappointment. I think I express best that life's difficult but that you have to go on. I have gone on, perhaps too long. But I've been fortunate. In my case the struggle has been worth it, thanks to my friends. I could have applied myself more, done better. But between love and work, I've been very fortunate."

La Dolce Vita

- Born: September 28, 1924, at Fontana Liri, a hamlet south-east of Rome.
- Childhood: Acted in church plays. Forced by father to leave school at 14.
- Second world war: While working as a draftsman, aged 19, picked up by Nazi troops occupying Rome and sent to a forced labour camp. Escaped to Venice.
- Post-war: Worked in Rome as clerk at British Eagle-Lion film company. Began acting with university theatre company.
- Marriage: To Flora Carabella, an actress, in 1950, with whom he had daughter Barbara.
- Scandal: In 1973, left wife to live with actress Catherine Deneuve. They had a daughter, Chiara, before separating a few years later.
- Career: More than 120 films since debut as a lead in 1947 in *Les Misérables*. Major films include: Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, 1960; *Divorce Italian Style*, 1961; *8½*, 1963; *Marriage Italian Style*, 1964; *City of Women*, 1980; *Ginger and Fred*, 1986; *Three Lives and Only One Death*, 1996.

Greer declares his firms insolvent

Clients desert lobbyist after he and Hamilton drop libel action

LOBBYIST Ian Greer, the central figure in the parliamentary sleaze scandal, has declared his three main companies are insolvent, it emerged yesterday. The one-time king of Westminster influence-brokers has called in accountants to prepare for liquidation. Ian Greer Associates, the UK arm, and Ian Greer Associates (Europe) saw the roster of blue-chip clients that once included British Airways, Thames Water and PowerGen evaporate after his September 30 High Court humiliation. Mr Greer climbed down at the last minute from a multi-million-pound libel action

against the Guardian, which had named him as middleman in the cash-for-questions affair involving Conservative MPs. "The publicity surrounding this has cost him his business," said the accountant now running the bankrupt empire. "His clients have gone elsewhere and it is now up to us to find out what remains." Three of the five Ian Greer companies are to be wound up; a fourth is based in Edinburgh and subject to Scottish insolvency law and the fifth is the holding company. The end came for Mr Greer's empire a few days ago, according to a source close to the insolvency, when the self-styled "political ani-

mal" was told by his accountant that matters could not continue in the way that they were. Total debts are not yet known, nor whether creditors will be paid in full. Should there be a shortfall, the Official Receiver may investigate what was once the most powerful lobbying machine in Westminster. Since the 1970s, Mr Greer had imported high-pressure American lobbying techniques and built himself an enviable client list. More than 20 MPs took campaign money, and Mr Greer says he raised £750,000 for the Conservative Party during the decade 1985-95. The former minister Neil Hamilton — Mr Greer's plaintiff against the Guardian — took £10,000 from Mr Greer.

Already, many of Mr Greer's remaining British clients have been handed over to lobbyist Adele Bliss & Co. Even that unconnected with the sleaze scandal, principally the ousting of Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, have damaged his international operation. IGA International, once thought to be the only viable part of the business remaining. Mr Greer has asked Keith Goodman, partner with accountants Leonard Curtis, to assist in winding up the businesses. Creditors will meet on January 7, when Mr Goodman will be proposed as liquidator. Leonard Curtis said: "In the meantime, Mr Goodman is investigating the demise of the business and a full report will be given after the creditors' meeting." Mr Goodman said he would prepare for the winding up "in a way which ensures the maximum return to creditors".

Duke apologises but polls back his stand on handguns

continued from page 1
ban handguns. He said it was irrational to target gun clubs; it was the person, not the weapon, that was dangerous. In a Radio 5 Live poll, 68 per cent (2,784) of those who called in agreed with the duke's comments. The question asked was: "Do you agree with the comments of the Duke of Edinburgh that a complete ban on handguns is an over-reaction to the events at Dunblane?"

Of a most 10,000 GMTV viewers who phoned a telephone poll answering the question "Is the prince right?", 75 per cent said yes. And in a Sky News poll of more than 7,000 viewers, 72 per cent agreed with the duke's comments. Ann Pearson, spokeswoman for the Dunblane Snowdrop petition, said: "My only conclusion is that the shooting community get up early when aroused."

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said: "He is entitled to his views, but I think on reflection that was not a wise analogy." George Robertson, shadow Scottish secretary and a resident of Dunblane, welcomed the duke's expression of regret, but said of the comments: "This is just the view of a very uninformed old man. They are the views of one aristocrat based on a completely crazy comparison."

John Major was silent on the affair, possibly because the handgun issue divides his party. A Harris poll published yesterday showed that 45 per cent of Tory backbenchers favour leaving the gun laws alone. Michael Yardley, national spokesman of the pro-gun group the Sportsman's Association, said: "Shooting is one of the safest sports in the country. Fishing and football create more casualties."

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Traditionally, fact has very little to do with this best-beloved of movie debates. It is mood and feel and politics that matter. You don't even need to have seen a film before denouncing it. Peter Preston

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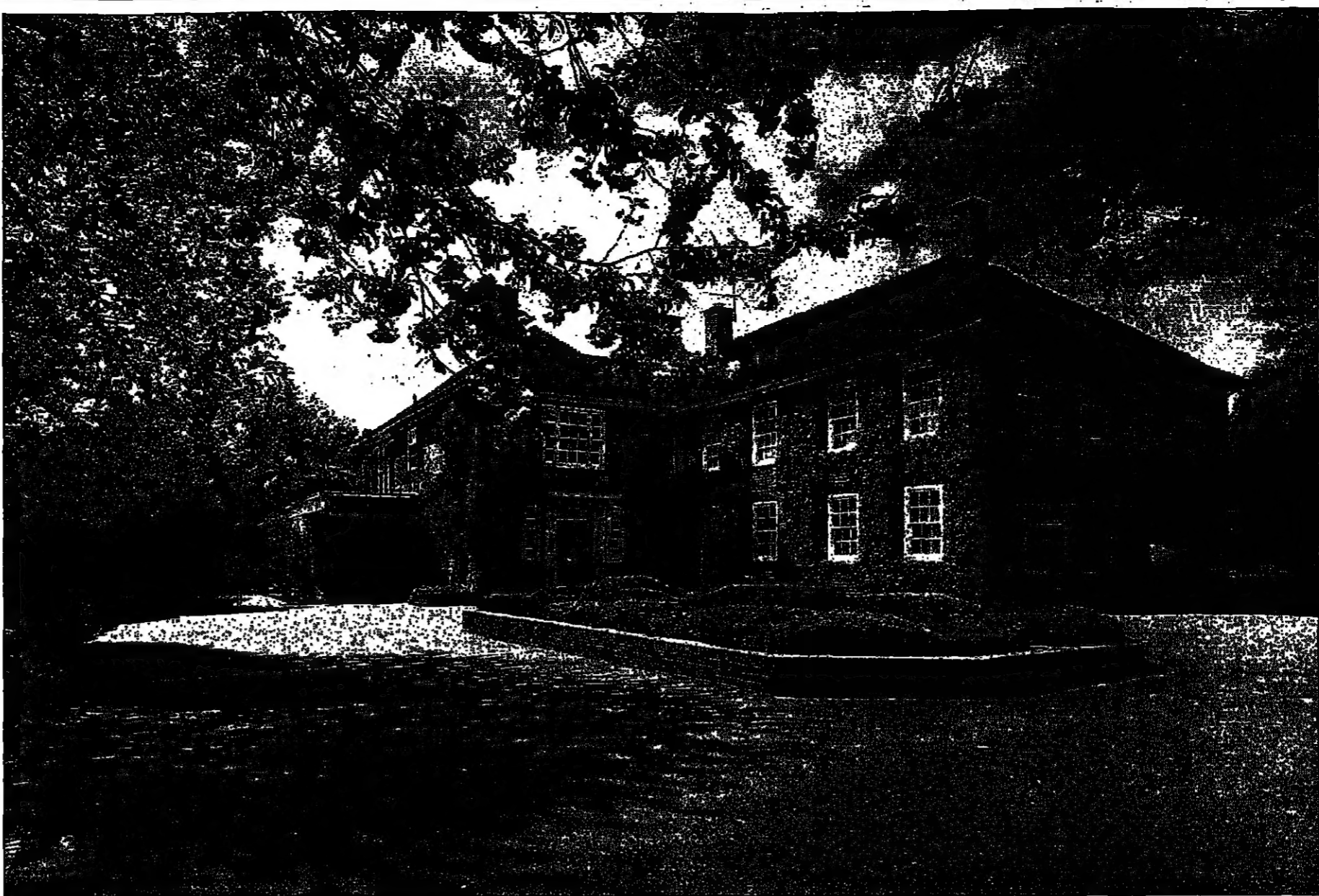
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Russia's elite go west for a good life in the Home Counties

James Meikle on eager investors and the return of 'swinging London'

THEY used to infiltrate British society by buying up MI6's brightest brains; now they buy up the country house property that housed the Establishment. The moneyed classes of Russia and eastern Europe are as tempted by a dacha near Weybridge as one outside Moscow, snapping up



East European buyers like contemporary homes with good security and everything in place (above and top left), according to estate agents

expensive Home Counties homes within easy reach of London, their children's private schools, and Heathrow and Gatwick airports. New homes with good security are prime targets for the eager investors in search of the good life, according to Knight Frank, the posh people's estate agents. The company also

reports a surge in British buyers with the return of large city bonuses, low interest rates and a strong economy. Its annual survey on country homes selling for more than £750,000 found that a quarter of foreign buyers came from behind the former Iron Curtain, while there was a dramatic drop in sales to Far Eastern clients. Another company, Strutt and Parker, says eight in 10 of its residential properties in fashionable parts of London are going to overseas buyers, at the capex enjoys its best image since the swinging '60s. Rupert Sweeting, a partner in Knight Frank

specialising in country homes, said: "It is all about quality of life. Here people get everything they want without having to queue for it and without having to go to the black mass. Russians and Czechs normally sought contemporary homes "in tip-top order". Tim Garbett, at the company's office in Esher, Surrey, said Eastern European buyers liked something "they do not have to touch and they can just turn the key", with the latest security. "With the new politics in Russia, they can open their wings a little bit more." The Russian rush for country homes follows the arrival of hundreds of their children to British prep and public schools, among them President Yeltsin's grandson, who started at £18,000-a-year Millfield School in Somerset last term. However, last year also saw 78 per cent of such properties going to Britons, the highest figure since the '80s. Strutt and Parker said overseas buyers, including rich expatriates, provided most of their house-hunters in central London, although young wealthy Britons were also looking for town houses in fashionable areas such as Chelsea. "The world is a shrinking place. London is the place to be at the moment."

Judge lifts jail ban on reporters

Prohibition of interviews ruled as interference with free speech

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

A BLANKET ban on journalists interviewing inmates in prison was yesterday ruled illegal by the High Court as an unjustified interference with the right of free speech. The landmark ruling on restrictions on prisoners' access to the press marked a victory for two journalists, freelance Bob Woffinden and BBC Wales reporter Karen Voisey, who had been investigating two alleged miscarriages of justice. Mr Woffinden said the decision was "very good news for press freedom. A lot of prisoners who have pressing con-

cerns will now be able to inform the press." He believed the Home Office had used the blanket ban to create "as little publicity as possible" about miscarriages of justice cases. Adrian Clarke, solicitor for one of the inmates involved in the case, said that until the ruling journalists had rarely been allowed to interview prisoners. The restriction on access had been a tremendous fetter on the ability of journalists to investigate serious concerns about cases. In major investigations, reporters had to resort to subterfuge to interview inmates during visiting hours. The ruling by Mr Justice Latham followed test cases brought by two prisoners, Ian Simms and Michael O'Brien, both serving life for murders they say they did not commit. Mr Woffinden, a former Yorkshire Television documentary maker and author of a book, *Miscarriages of Justice*, was banned from further visits to Simms in Full Sutton prison, in York, unless he signed an undertaking not to publish any material he obtained during his visits. The ban followed a complaint from the mother of Simms's victim that she was distressed by an article by Mr Woffinden on the case. Karen Voisey was turned away from Long Lartin prison in Worcestershire after refusing to sign a similar non-publication undertaking before seeing O'Brien. The judge said the blanket ban on using material obtained in a visit was not "justified as the minimum interference necessary with the right of free speech". Although inmates had the right to write to journalists, the knowledge the letters would be read by prison officials often had a chilling effect on a frank exchange of views. He said an undertaking could be devised to allow conversations to be published in which the prisoner makes serious representations about their case, or serious comments about crime, the processes of justice or the penal system. The Prison Service told the court one reason for the ban was to stop prisoners communicating material which might further distress their victims or their families or "outrage the public at large". Mr Justice Latham said since inmates could write to the press he could not see any reason why they should be stopped from making the same point orally. He said he recognised that occasional abuses might occur.

Cathedral row ends with dean's exit

Christmas boycott by bishop terminates seven-year 'scandal'

Madeline Bonning Religious Affairs Editor

THE Dean of Lincoln has decided he has "had enough" and will resign by the spring, ending one of the longest and most bitter personality wrangles in the Church of England for decades. The Very Rev Brandon Jackson said he no longer had any appetite for the battle that for seven years tore apart Lincoln Cathedral. Hitherto he had insisted he would not quit unless the cathedral's sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis, also resigned. In July, the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, called for both men to resign and spoke of Lincoln's problems as "a scandal which has dishonoured the name of the Lord." Earlier this week the dispute came to a head when the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Rev Robert Hardy — who has no power to dismiss either man — announced he would not attend services at the cathedral over Christmas. "If the archbishop wants me to go, then I'll go. I'm absolutely fed up with all the innuendoes, lies and injustices," Dean Jackson says in today's *Church Times*. "The lack of either financial or moral support from the bishop, and the three court cases he brought against me, have finally worn me down. I do feel very de-



Brandon Jackson: 'Fed up with innuendo and lies'

Jackson. I have no intention of even considering resignation." In July 1989, Dean Jackson was subjected to a trial before a consistory or church court on charges of sexual impropriety with a vergar. After he was cleared, he accused the bishop and other cathedral staff of conspiring to bring him down. On several occasions, he referred to an evil presence in the Lincoln cloisters. Last year, votes of no confidence in the dean by cathedral staff, over his allegedly abrasive management style, failed to budge him. This prompted an unprecedented intervention by Dr Carey, who sent a fact-finding team to the Lincoln. But in a direct rebuttal to the archbishop's authority, even this failed. "There are people who are negotiating a severance package."

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EU survey shows drop in support

STEPHEN MILES in Brussels

FEWER than half the inhabitants of the European Union now see their country's membership as a good thing and one in six would vote to leave, according to a survey compiled by EU statisticians. Although nearly two thirds of the 16,300 people questioned across all 15 member states would still vote to remain in the EU, for the first time the percentage supporting the principle of the EU has dropped below 50 per cent. The trend showing support for the union down to 46 per cent — six points down on last year — has continued since 1990. The six-monthly Eurobarometer poll questions 1,000 people in each member state with the exception of the UK, where an extra 300 are polled in Northern Ireland, Germany, where 1,000 are questioned in both the old western and eastern halves, and Luxembourg where only 500 are polled. The findings show Britain to be among the more Eurosceptical nations, though with sharp regional variations. Overall in the UK, 41 per cent believed membership to be a good thing and 21 per cent believed it to be bad. By comparison, 46 per cent of Germans questioned favoured the union, with 13 per cent opposed, while in France it was 53 per cent to 13 per cent — exactly the EU average. The pollsters found much higher levels of support for

Minister orders adoption review to reduce 'unacceptable' delays

DAVID BRINDLE, Social Services Correspondent

ALL local authority adoption services must be reviewed, ministers said yesterday after inspectors found unacceptable delays in procedures. Scrutiny of six sample authorities found that almost one in four children for adoption had to wait more than three years for placement. More than half of all children aged six to 10 were unplaced after three years. More than one in three adoptive parents had to wait longer than two years for a child after their application was approved. Simon Burns, junior health minister responsible for social services, said: "Key lessons should be learned and applied. Local authorities need to review their adoption services." The study of adoption procedures in England, by the Government's Social Services Inspectorate, comes a week after a similar report on fostering. That, too, was critical of standards and prompted ministers to order a review. The six adoption services inspected were Bury, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, East Sussex, Warwickshire, and the south London boroughs of Croydon and Southwark. Inspectors found some good practice, including the striking of balance between the interests of children, birth and adoptive parents. But they also found weaknesses in strategic planning, assessment of children's needs and care planning — the same problems highlighted in the fostering report. Delays in adoption arose from prolonged court proceedings, overlong assessment processes and inadequate monitoring of children and adopters. "The impact of this is so much greater on young lives," says the inspectors' report, *For Children's Sake*. "The risk of placement disruption increases the older children are when placed." The inspectors told authorities that adoptive parents could only exceptionally be single. One in 20 of those being considered by the sample authorities was single. Sir Herbert Laming, the chief inspector, said yesterday's report showed that "social services need to match parents to children much more effectively by finding parents who are ready to adopt children from specific age groups". The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering said it believed delays in arranging placements occurred because some authorities were reluctant to look outside their own areas for suitable adopters. Felicity Collier, the group's director, said: "This means that children must wait, for months or even years, before a family in their own region is found. This cannot be right." The number of adoptions has fallen sharply in recent years. There were almost 25,000 in England and Wales in 1988, but fewer than 5,000 in 1995 — about half of which were by step-parents. For Children's Sake, Department of Health, PO Box 410, Wetherby, LS23 7LN; free

Scientists claim BSE advance

TIM RADFORD Science Editor

US SCIENTISTS believe they have unravelled some of the mystery of how a prion protein can cause the fatal neurodegenerative disease BSE — the type that existed before BSE — strikes in a number of versions, and there is a range of encephalopathies of sheep, cattle, mink and other animals. The problem was to explain how one protein could be responsible for all of them. The healthy prion protein is chemically the same as the rogue one. The difference is in the way it is folded. A normal prion in a beef hamburger, the theory goes, is simply broken down by digestive juices; a rogue version survives cooking and digestion and gets into the nervous system via the spleen. But what puzzled scientists was how a simple change could cause a number of different diseases. Professor Prusiner and colleagues at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, report in the *US Journal of Science*, today that they have an answer. They used genetically-engineered mice susceptible to human prions, and injected them with fragments of brain from people who died either of CJD or a variation of CJD called Fatal Familial Insom-

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Window shopping... A London toy store's dancing snowmen catch the eye of a potential customer PHOTOGRAPH BY LYNE SLADKY

Unlawful sale of homes by second Tory council

James Meikle, Community Affairs Editor

A SECOND Conservative council was yesterday found guilty of operating an unlawful housing sales policy, sparking Labour attempts to link the Government to the affair.

The District Auditor, Rowland Little, ruled that the London borough of Wandsworth "misdirected itself in law" by selling empty flats instead of offering them to the homeless. But he found no evidence of wilful misconduct by individuals. The opposition leapt on the report, linking it to the "homes for votes" scandal in nearby Westminster, where another auditor in June decided to surcharge its former leader, Lady Shirley Porter, and five others,

nearly £32 million for "gerrymandering" in eight key wards, a decision they are to challenge in the courts.

Labour called for an "unreserved apology" from Sir Paul Beresford, a junior environment minister, who was formerly leader of Wandsworth, although he had left before the decisions that sparked the inquiry.

Mr Little, a partner with the accountants, Binder Hamlyn, said decisions in 1992 by the south London authority to declare new areas for its voluntary sales policy were unlawful. They were based on a flawed report from officers, which failed to take into account duties to the homeless, the effect of an increased sales programme on them and those in medical or social need, the size of properties marked for sale, or the financial consequences.

There was no consideration of "red-lining" problems experienced by former tenants and other buyers, as mortgage lenders proved reluctant to provide money on properties with severe maintenance problems.

Mr Little said the officers' report "served to undermine the decision-making process".

The council should have formulated a policy that balanced its desire to extend home ownership with duties to the homeless. But Mr Little found "no evidence that the council's voluntary sales policy was adopted for an improper purpose or took into account an irrelevant consideration, namely the electoral advantage of the majority party, as alleged by the objectors."

His report said the policy operated by Wandsworth between the mid-80s

and 1992 would have meant the loss of a maximum of 5,227 homes for rent.

Labour invited the council to admit its policy had since changed its policies. But Hilary Armstrong, shadow local government spokesman, said: "The people of Wandsworth deserve an explanation and unreserved apology from the current council's leadership and from Sir Paul Beresford."

Sir Paul, housing policy chairman from 1986 to 1988 and leader from then to May 1992, is in Italy on government business. An aide said Wandsworth had received legal advice that differed from Mr Little's conclusion, and that his report accused no individual of misconduct. Edward Lister, present council leader, said: "The council has at all times acted reasonably based on a proper regard for its legal powers and duties."

Moral education 'could lead to improved exam results'

Donald MacLeod, Education Correspondent

MORAL education in schools could improve pupils' exam results, Nicholas Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, said yesterday.

As part of a national statement of values drawn up for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, schools will be urged to promote marriage as the ideal for family life. This follows an earlier draft by a national

forum of church and faith bodies and other organisations that was criticised by Christian groups and Tory politicians for failing to specify marriage in its statement of support for families.

Asked about the potential effect on schools of the statement of values, Mr Tate, the authority's chief executive, said the four countries that came top in a recent international comparison of maths and science performance — Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Singapore — all had moral education in the curriculum.

"Countries that have explicit moral education in their curriculum seem to be performing extremely well academically," he said.

"Schools not doing well are often those where a clear statement of values and attitudes is not being promoted."

Next month, the national forum will be asked to approve a new version of the values statement including: "We as a society should support marriage as the traditional form of family whilst recognising that the love and commitment required for a

secure and happy childhood can be found in families of other kinds."

A national poll and survey of organisations found strong backing for the statement. There was a consensus in society on what our core moral values were, said Mr Tate. "Schools can be certain that in moral education based upon this framework of values, they are strongly supported by society in general."

The values would not be part of the national curriculum, but there would be a model syllabus schools could use.

Hunt for IRA 'bomb' lorry

Police appeal to trace Ford Iveco used to move explosives

Vivek Chaudhary

POLICE last night appealed for information about a 7.5 tonne Ford Iveco lorry which they said had been used to transport bomb-making equipment around Britain.

The appeal came after police raided a lorry yard in north-west London on Monday. Commander John Griev, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said the yard had been clearly used by the Provisional IRA. The lorry was thought to have been in the IRA's possession since February.

"We believe the lorry was used at some stage to transport bomb-making equipment — possibly innocently. On the other hand, it may be part of the terrorists' transport."

It was described as white with blue curtain sides and had the remnants of faded, unreadable sign-writing on the cab doors. Bars under the platform and the bumper were red. It may have a C or D



A lorry similar to the IRA vehicle sought by police

registration number but originated in Ireland.

Mr Griev said that police were particularly keen to trace the lorry's movements in June and July, when it is known to have been in the north London area.

It was unlikely that it was still being used by the IRA. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, yesterday appealed for public vigilance over the Christmas period.

● The Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, John Hume, yesterday held talks with loyalist prisoners inside the Maze prison as part of efforts to revive the peace process.

Mr Hume said that he had been surprised at how positive the two hours of discussions were, given the background of some of the men he met. But they had warned him that their ceasefire should not be taken for granted.

The US Congressman, Joe Kennedy, claimed that Gerry Adams has told him that he would be able to secure a permanent IRA ceasefire if Sinn Féin was given immediate entry into the all-party talks. Mr Kennedy is on a two-day visit to Belfast.

Guardian tops 'leaks' list as report refutes Heseltine bid to cite Labour

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Guardian has been disclosed as the leading recipient by far of Whitehall leaks over the two years. A Cabinet Office paper, drawn up at the request of the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, shows that 24 of the 70 leaks were first published in this newspaper.

Mr Heseltine ordered the Cabinet Office to produce a report after MPs asked him to back up his allegation that politically motivated Labour supporters were responsible for a Whitehall "leak culture".

The report has identified 430 Whitehall leaks since 1980, but does not substantiate Mr Heseltine's claims. "Civil servants are not the only people who have had the opportunity, or the motive, to have been responsible," it says. It makes no reference to Labour-supporting civil servants.

In a note to the Commons public service committee, Mr Heseltine has told it to "disregard" claims he made last week that a Labour candidate leaked documents while she was in the Treasury — a mistake described by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, as a "humiliating climbdown".

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the Civil Service, also refused to endorse Mr Heseltine's claims that leaks were all politically inspired. He pointed

Who's leaking to who

Documents leaked between 14/10/94 and 5/12/96 include:

Leaked to...	Leaked from...
The Guardian (34)	Dept of Social Security (13)
The Independent (9)	Cabinet Office (18)
Daily Mirror (5)	Ministry of Defence (5)
Sunday Times (5)	Dept of Environment (4)
The Observer (2)	DFR (4)
Daily Telegraph (2)	Treasury (4)
Daily Mail (1)	Foreign Office (3)
BBC (1)	Dept of Transport (2)
Independent on Sunday (1)	
Mail on Sunday (1)	

including one not published

Not State leaks - received by more than one newspaper

Source: Cabinet Office

Confidential

out that 70 per cent of the documents were leaked directly to the media, without any Labour Party involvement.

However, Whitehall officials yesterday accused Mr Heseltine, and Tory MEP Graham Mather, of a concerted attempt to smear the Civil Service after Mr Mather produced a report based on computerised searches of newspaper articles for the word "leak", claiming civil servants had leaked 60 sensitive documents this year.

Jonathan Baume, general secretary-designate of the First Division Association, which represents top civil servants, called the exercise "completely bogus".

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Film awards turn spotlight on Britain

Ken Katz in New York

THE English Patient, the epic screen adaptation of Michael Ondaatje's 1992 Booker Prize winning novel, emerged as clear Oscar favourite yesterday after sweeping the nominations for the Golden Globes, the film prizes which are considered a reliable predictor of Academy Award winners.

The lavish two-and-a-half hour production, set in the Sahara and war-torn Italy, won a nomination in the best dramatic picture category, as well as nods for its leading man and woman, Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas. It collected a total of seven nominations, two more than any other film.

Mike Leigh's critically acclaimed Secrets and Lies was also shortlisted for best dramatic picture, with two members of its cast, Brenda Blethyn and Mariann Jean Baptiste, picking up nominations for their performances.

Evita, the relentlessly hyped adaptation of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical starring the world's most famous single mum, and Shine, the story of the Australian piano prodigy David Helfgott, were also favoured when the Golden Globes shortlists were announced early yesterday in Beverly Hills.

Both films received five nominations, as did The People vs Larry Flynt, Milos Forman's film on the life of the Hustler publisher and self-styled guardian of free speech who was left paralysed by an attempt on his life.

The English Patient was adapted and directed by Anthony Minghella, the screenwriter and director behind the successful dark comedy, Truly, Madly, Deeply. He received a best director nomination yesterday while Juliette Binoche was named in the best supporting actress category.

Although Mr Minghella and most of the cast of The English Patient are British,

the film was funded by New York-based Miramax after 20th Century Fox dropped out of the project. It has been a surprise box office hit in the United States, grossing more than \$14 million (about \$2.7 million) in four weeks of release.

The film tells the story of Count Lazzaro de Almásy, a Hungarian count and explorer, played by Mr Fiennes and based on a real historical character. Almásy suffers appalling burns when his plane is shot down over North Africa and winds up in an Allied military hospital in Italy.

The story fits between Italy, where the dying man and amnesiac count is lovingly cared for by a Canadian military nurse (Juliette Binoche), and pre-war North Africa, where he had earlier had a torrid and doomed affair with the beautiful wife of an English spy (Kristin Scott Thomas).

The Golden Globes are awarded by the 90 members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, mostly relatively unknown foreign journalists who show up with notorious regularity on Hollywood junkets.

Nevertheless, the Golden Globes, the winners of

The English Patient has been a surprise box office hit in the US

which will be announced on January 19, are closely watched as an indicator of which films will do well at the Oscars the following month.

Madonna was nominated for best actress in a musical for her performance as Eva Peron in Evita, while fellow chanteuse, Barbra Streisand, was shortlisted for her performance in The Mirror has Two Faces. Another pop star turned actress, Courtney Love, was named for her performance in the People vs Larry Flynt.

House of secrets and lies



A letter found by his wife in their Virginia home (above) led to Earl Edwin Pitts (right), an FBI agent, being charged with selling secrets to Moscow. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: SCOTT BROWN

Spy's wife who put her country first

Richard Serrano in Washington

MARY PITTS had one choice and no choice: her country or her husband. As an FBI support clerk, she became suspicious that her husband, Earl Edwin Pitts, a career supervisory agent with the bureau, might be compromising their employer: the United States.

She found a letter he left behind in their rural Virginia home that FBI investigators say indicated her husband might be swapping secrets for cash from the Russians. But she did not know that top FBI authorities already suspected him of spying for the former Soviet Union during his posting in the New York field office in the late 1960s.

Nor did she realise that the letter was part of an undercover sting operation by the FBI to determine how much further her husband might bend to make money at the expense of his country.

Mrs Pitts wrestled with her dilemma. She decided to notify fellow FBI officials of her suspicions. Then, she embarked on whether she

had compromised her marriage.

In one of many telephone transcripts the FBI provided as part of its criminal affidavit against her husband, she told a neighbour: "I probably shouldn't have gone to the bureau. It will probably be the end of my marriage either way it goes. Because if he is on the up-and-up and he finds out that I went behind his back, we're finished."

She struggled further with what the consequences would be for her future. "Could I have gone on with my regular and wonderful life?" she asked, according to the affidavit transcripts. No, she concluded. "It's over. My life is over."

After Earl Edwin Pitts, aged 43, was arrested on Wednesday morning at his post at the FBI's training academy in Quantico, Virginia, Louis Freeh, director of the FBI, stressed that Mrs Pitts was not a suspect in the nearly 16-month undercover operation.

Rather, he said, the investigation was "certainly enhanced by the statements" she ultimately gave to the bureau to boost the FBI's case. Mr Freeh said she had

since left the bureau, but declined to say why.

When the undercover investigation began in August 1985, a former Soviet official assigned to his country's United Nations mission — who by then was secretly working as a "co-operating witness" for the FBI — turned up at the Pitts home to see Earl. It was the first contact of the undercover operation, and it immediately aroused her suspicions.

The affidavit against her husband says Mrs Pitts telephoned her sister three times that day, telling her "a man with a foreign accent came to the house" and asked for her husband, who had suddenly left home "in a panic".

She searched his home office while he was away and found damning evidence: a letter sent earlier from New York in which the undercover agents tried to start their espionage relationship with Mr Pitts.

When he returned home, she confronted him, the affidavit says. It does not record how he responded. But later that day, Mrs Pitts's sister asked her on the phone if the letter included "the secret stuff". Mrs Pitts said it did.



After three days of angst, Mrs Pitts telephoned Tom Carter, the FBI's resident agent in Fredericksburg, near her home. She asked to meet him on an "urgent and confidential matter concerning her husband", the affidavit says.

They talked for an hour and she gave him statements about her husband's suspicions, activities that day. Then she handed over a copy of the letter.

Later that day she talked by phone to a neighbour. The conversation, quoted in the affidavit, shows her uncertainty about whether she had done the right thing.

She later told her husband about the meeting and he met Mr Carter. The affidavit says Mr Pitts told Mr Carter that

the man visiting their home was a former intelligence agent whom he had known when he was assigned to the New York field office in the late 1960s. Mr Pitts verified the letter, but he insisted the man had been drunk when he showed up at their door.

Mr Pitts, who is also a lawyer, said he met the man at local Wal-Mart near his home and gave him legal advice.

But "these statements were false", the affidavit says. Instead, prosecutors allege that Mr Pitts met with the "co-operating witness" at a nearby civil war battlefield site and received \$15,000 (about \$3,000) in the first of an estimated \$85,000 pay-out in the undercover arrangement. — Los Angeles Times.

End for China's last eunuch

Mure Dickie in Beijing

CHINA'S last imperial eunuch has died in Beijing at the age of 93, after a life that spanned the end of a dynasty and a communist revolution which made a mockery of his castration.

Sun Yaoting, who served in the court of China's last emperor for seven years, died on Tuesday at his home in a Beijing temple, his biographer Jia Yiqing said yesterday.

His remains were laid out in traditional style at Beijing's Guangshun temple.

Sun's genitals were removed eight years after he was born, in 1903, by his father, who was eager to wield power through a son in the court of China's Qing emperor, Mr Jia said.

Months later, the Qing dynasty was swept away after it had ruled China for almost three centuries.

After Emperor Pu Yi was stripped of his imperial title in 1911, Sun continued to serve him during the final years of his residence in the Forbidden City.

He was appointed to administer Beijing's temples when the communist revolutionaries swept to power in 1949.

Sun's security increased in 1966 when Mao Zedong launched the Cultural Revolution. Sun was an early victim of the Red Guards, who criticised anything tainted by the feudal past.

He was sent back to his home village, where he lost his genitals during the 1966-67 period. They were preserved using traditional methods.

"They were thrown away by his family," Mr Jia said. "They were afraid of being implicated if the genitals were found by the Red Guards."

According to Buddhist beliefs, a eunuch has to be buried with his penis to ensure successful reincarnation as a man.

"He used to joke about it," Mr Jia said. "He said, 'When I die I will come back as a cat or a dog.'"

Sun's adopted son and grandson were due to take his place in his home village for further ceremonies today before having them cremated in Beijing, Mr Jia said. — Reuters.

300 die in Somalia week of war

Greg Burrow in Nairobi

FRACTIONAL fighting has dragged the people of Somalia's capital back to the darkest days of the civil war in 1992.

International aid agencies estimate that up to 300 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in less than a week of fighting in Mogadishu, although no warlord has made significant territorial gains.

"The intensity of the fighting has shocked even Mogadishu's battle-hardened population: in one incident, almost 40 people were killed when three mortar bombs landed in the crowded Bakaarah market.

Militiamen have abandoned their machine-gunned pick-up trucks, known as "technicals", and, in an alarming change of tactics, have started using heavy artillery to bombard rival militia positions.

"The situation in Mogadishu is very grave," said Fred Grimm, the Somalia delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross. "The fighting is damaging the over-

all living conditions of the population.

"We already have a very difficult situation — the main port has been closed now for one and a half years, job opportunities are very low, and the coping mechanisms of a large part of the population are becoming more and more feeble."

The latest upsurge in fighting comes as the United Nations appeal for aid and relief projects in Somalia, which is controlled by Mr Aideed, but a central authority or government.

International observers say the new conflict can be traced back to July, when the most powerful warlord, General Mohammed Farah Aideed, was killed in a militia gunfight in Mogadishu.

He was succeeded by his son, Hussein, a former United States marine regarded by many Somalis as too young and inexperienced to affect the power-struggle.

"I think what we are seeing now is a marginalisation of Aideed's supporters, and especially his son, Hussein Aideed," said one foreign se-

curity source who travels frequently to Mogadishu. "Most of the other faction leaders are now bitterly opposed to Hussein Aideed."

"We're still in a situation where no single warlord is powerful enough to take control, but if the Aideed faction is faced with a strong alliance of other clan leaders, it'll begin to struggle."

A green line divides north Mogadishu, controlled by Ali Mahdi Mohammed of the Abgal clan, from the south, controlled by Mr Aideed's Habar-Gidir sub-clan.

The fighting flared when Mr Aideed's militia tried to move into the Medina enclave in south Mogadishu, a densely populated area occupied by Abgal clan leader Musa Sidi Yalahow, who is closely allied to Mr Mohammed in the north and Osman Ali Atto in the south.

Mr Aideed's advance, which dragged all three of his most bitter opponents in Mogadishu into the fighting, took place as all the other faction leaders were in Ethiopia to discuss a plan to bring about national reconciliation and set up a transitional govern-

ment. The talks are backed by both the UN and the US.

Mr Aideed has been offered a seat on a committee of the faction leaders set up to resolve the five-year conflict, but Mr Aideed has refused to participate in the Ethiopia peace talks. His hardline supporters say Somalia already has a government with Mr Aideed as its head of state.

At the same time, however, the Aideed faction is desperately scrambling for support from armed groups which have previously played little part in the Mogadishu conflict.

"Aideed must be careful. He doesn't realise how quickly things are moving on the ground," said one foreign aid representative. "He is losing support because his opponents are getting stronger."

"Even now we are hearing that Aideed is trying to build bridges with the Somali Islamic fundamentalist group Al-Itihad, which has carried out terrorist attacks in Ethiopia over the last year."

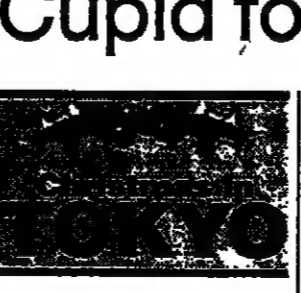
"It is a dangerous development, and it leaves no opening for peace and reconciliation."

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

The Guardian

available all over Europe

Santa dresses up as Cupid for sad singles



JONATHAN WATTS

JUST 10 days left until Christmas Eve. Does anybody have any plans? No? Well, perhaps tonight you can meet someone with whom to share the most romantic evening of the year.

The company was addressing 300 single men and women at one of the many "coupling parties" in Tokyo in the run-up to Christmas — which in Japan is associated as much with Cupid as with Christ.

Each guest paid 10,000 yen (about £25) to attend the "precious executive" coupling party, where men

who earn more than 10 million yen and female college graduates have a chance to meet.

For-U, the organiser, was running eight other parties in Tokyo the same evening and dozens more the following week. "We organise events throughout the year, but this is always our busiest season," said Tsuji Kobayashi, its director. "It is not easy to meet members of the opposite sex in Japan, but everybody wants to find a date in time for Christmas Eve."

Although less than 1 per cent of Japan's population is Christian, the country has a long tradition of religious pick 'n' mix. It is quite common for a person to have their birth sanctified with Shinto rites, their marriage celebrated in a Christian ceremony and their death commemorated with Buddhist rituals.

Christmas, likewise, has been integrated into Japanese culture, but with a commercial spin. The editor of Japan, an events and

travel magazine, said: "For decades we celebrated Christmas as in the West — as a time for the family to get together. But in the 1970s a series of new publications aimed at young people emphasised the romantic nature of the season."

"That proved to be a successful marketing concept and it really took off during the consumer boom of the late 1980s."

Falling to find a partner for Christmas Eve is portrayed as a social disaster by the media. One television station recently broadcast a programme entitled: "Which of these women looks like she is going to spend the most miserable Christmas?"

For some it is all too much. Shoko Kawashita, an unmarried career woman, said she had decided to escape: "I can't stand this time of year in Japan. I have booked a ticket and plan, like last year, to spend Christmas in Africa."

News in brief

Rafsanjani gets warm welcome

Brushing aside warnings from the United States against forming closer ties with Iran, Turkey's Islamic government warmly welcomed President Hashemi Rafsanjani for a three-day visit yesterday.

He was greeted at Ankara airport by President Suleyman Demirel and received full military honours. — AP.

Hunziker 'suicide'

Less than a month after banking in the Thanksgiving eve glow of his release from North Korea, where he was held as a spy and threatened with execution, Evan Hunziker, aged 26, was found dead in a rundown hotel in Tacoma, Washington, with a bullet in his head. It is believed he committed suicide. — New York Times.

Missile warning

The leader of a United Nations team in charge of destroying Iraqi weapons has told the Security Council that he believes Baghdad may be hiding more operational missiles than it has previously suspected. — New York Times.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Man of leisure takes over

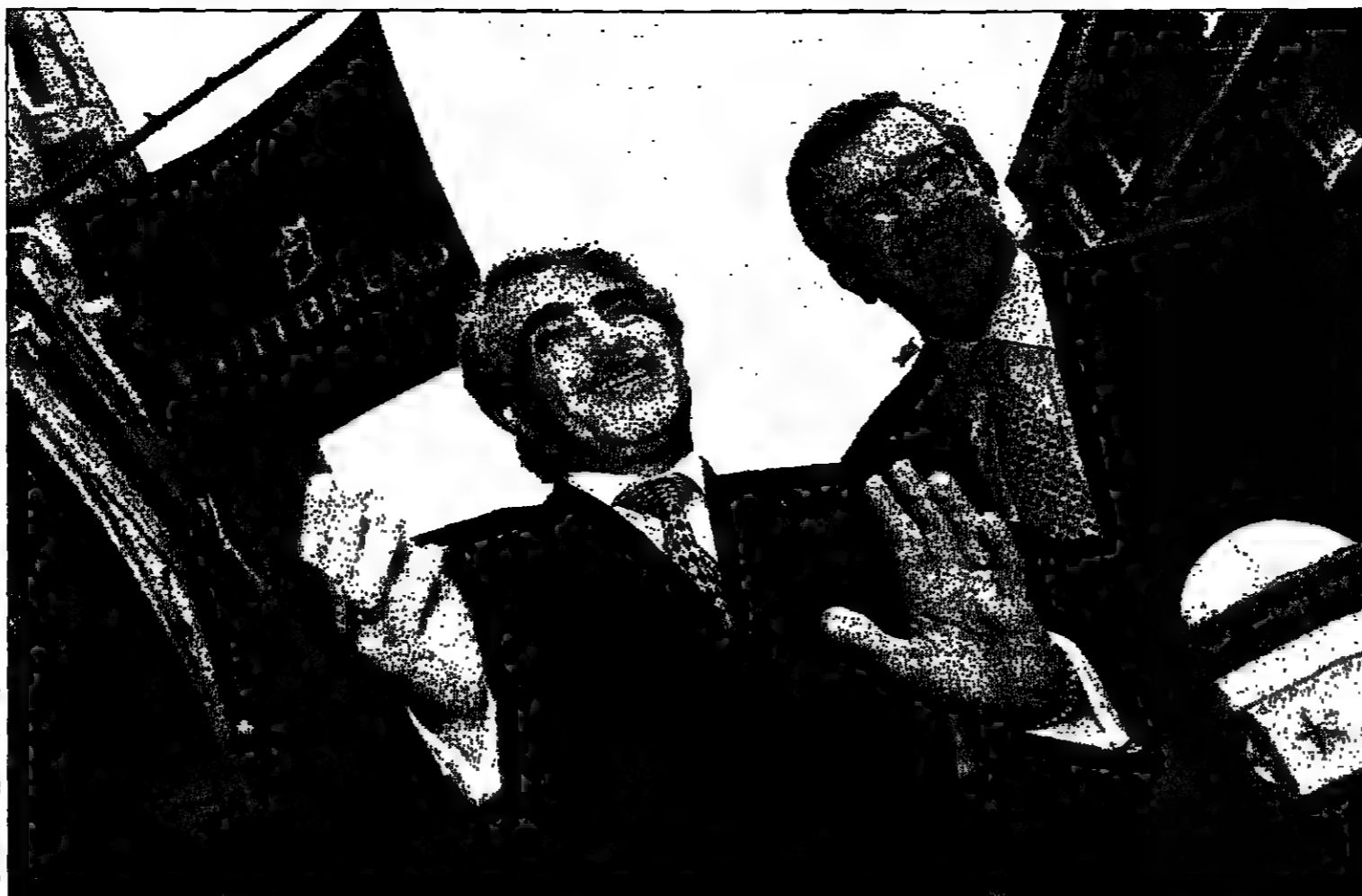
PETER Jarvis (right), chief executive of Whitbread, surprised the City yesterday as he announced that he is to step down next summer. He is handing over the reins to David Thomas (left), head of the restaurants and leisure division, writes Dominic Walsh.

However, analysts expect little change of strategy from the man credited with helping to transform the brewer into a broadly based leisure company. It was Mr Thomas who masterminded the David Lloyd Leisure and Pelican restaurant group acquisitions.

"They are basically cut from the same mould," said ESW analyst Charles Winston.

Mr Jarvis, aged 55, said he intended to retain an involvement with business through his non-executive directorships of Burton, Rank and Barclays.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TOM JENKINS



Labour lays down law on commodity market reform

Patrick Deenan
City Editor

LABOUR government would consider stripping the London Metal Exchange of its cherished right to operate as a self-regulatory body unless the City's biggest and most powerful commodity market urgently embraces reforms demanded by the Securities and Investment Board watchdog.

Shadow economic secretary Mike O'Brien issued that warning yesterday as the SIB unveiled the findings of the six-month investigation into

the running of the City's commodity markets begun in the wake of the £1.8 billion Sumitomo copper fraud in Japan.

Its indictment of the LME — the world's biggest market for the trading of non-ferrous metals — concluded: "Changes are needed to improve standards at the London Metal Exchange."

Among the seven key recommendations is a call for "an urgent and thorough review by the LME of its governance."

In what is seen as a coded attack on directors of the market who have personal interests in the trades they oversee, the report added that action must be taken to avoid

"conflicts of interest", and to ensure that the market is "run in the interests of its users and members".

It also comes close to personal criticism of the effectiveness of chief executive David King and chairman Raj Bagri, calling for "an increase in the role, authority and resources of the LME executive to enable it better to meet the challenges of running and regulating a successful world market".

Mr O'Brien said: "Self-regulation failed in the Sumitomo case. LME must now make urgent changes if it is to ensure its future as an regulatory independent entity."

The SIB report does not

give any insight into its work with the Serious Fraud Office, the City of London police and other enforcement agencies in the US and Japan on possible links between the Sumitomo affair and British-based brokers.

But it calls for:

- better market monitoring with strengthened large-position reporting, more staff and more extensive use of technology;
- a shake-up of the LME's rules and the enforcement "to reflect fully the regulatory obligations owed by its members";
- better systemic information-sharing with the Securities and Futures Authority

and the London Clearing House;

- improvements in market transparency;
- more tightly controlled and transparent warehousing arrangements;
- David Fritchard, SIB head of markets and exchanges, called the LME the "leading metals exchange in the world". But there were "a number of areas where the LME needs to strengthen and develop its regulatory structure to reflect changes in the market".

Mr King last night promised urgent action but insisted that "in big-picture terms the LME has been given a clean bill of health".

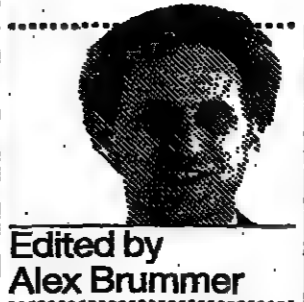
He pointed out that the review had been sought by the LME even though the events which led to the losses at Sumitomo were in jurisdictions outside its control.

The SIB had publicly declared that there had been "no systemic risk to the markets from the way we operated".

But he warned that there was still a loophole in the regulatory system. "Under current legislation it is possible to trade actively in many millions of tonnes in LME contracts in the UK without the obligation to be an LME member. The review envisages that this will be dealt with by better inter-regulator regulation."

Notebook

Metal verdict like a lead balloon



Edited by Alex Brummer

IT IS partly in the nature of British financial regulation that it requires a grave crisis in the marketplace, like the Sumitomo affair, before the regulators take any action.

The evidence of poor surveillance and controls at the London Metal Exchange was abundant long before rogue trader Yasuo Hamanaka put up his hand, but nothing was done about it.

The institutions concerned were bringing in the income, collating officers and self-regulatory organisations are reluctant to intervene.

Now, after six months' study, unrelated to the parallel enforcement investigation, the Securities and Investment Board has come up with the blindingly obvious. Those responsible for governance of the market cannot, at the same time, represent some of the most critical commercial interests on the trading floor.

There must be arm's length governance of the kind which has been long established at the Stock Exchange and is being put into place at other problem markets like Lloyd's of London.

Nevertheless, the SIB document marks a giant step forward for a market where the rules have failed to keep up with the volume of trading and changing practices. Of particular significance are the recommendations regarding transparency in agency (third party) and options trading, two of the fastest growing and least understood areas.

What is worrying is that it has taken the SIB review by David Fritchard to produce a requirement that there be more information sharing with the Securities and Futures Authority, which is directly responsible for monitoring members' firms. It is shocking if such basic data have not been systematically provided to the authorities.

It is imperative that the SIB changes are implemented quickly: the 12 months' lead-time being given seems overgenerous. Moreover, if the reforms are to be credible it would be wise if the existing team of chief executive David King and Raj Bagri, both of whom have a commercial involvement in the market, were to stand aside so independent leadership can be chosen.

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Rocky road

RENAULT's attempts at working with overseas partners have not always been crowned with success. A planned alliance with Volvo founded on Swedish shareholder concerns that their company would be swallowed up by the French car maker. A project with Leyland Daf to develop a new van fell by the wayside when the truck and van maker's Dutch parent ran into a financial crisis.

This time Renault is teaming up with the General Motors stable through IBC, where GM is the majority shareholder and Japan's Isuzu — itself around 88 per cent owned by the US car maker — holds a modest 18 per cent stake.

GM's size and financial clout means that this time round Renault is unlikely (to say the least) to hit either of the problems that have upset previous efforts. The French group will no doubt be relieved. In a European market which is fiercely competitive and, arguably, has too many manufacturers, alliances, however limited, can come in very handy.

Certainly the deal will fill the gap left by the collapse of the deal with Daf. But there is no suggestion that it will extend into the industry heartland, cars. Renault still lacks the extra edge that the Volvo alliance would have brought.

Christmas gloom

Gallaher axes 950 jobs in Cheshire run-down

Martin Haines
Northern Industrial Correspondent

GALLAHER, the international tobacco company, yesterday provoked fury by announcing the run-down of its factory in Buxton, Cheshire, with the loss of 950 jobs. Closure is expected by the year 2000.

The company, which made its announcement without consulting union officials, will receive £2.9 million in government funding towards a £45.6 million expansion of its plant in Northern Ireland, where it will create 290 jobs. The closure is the latest in a decade of rationalisation which has seen Gallaher shed some 1,600 UK jobs, including almost 1,000 in Northern Ireland. The British workforce is now 3,700.

Workers at the Cheshire plant, which manufactures

Fashion-free

Dunn & Co loses the thread again

Roger Coote

TRADITIONAL menswear retailer Dunn & Co went into receivership again yesterday, five years after the name was saved by Hodges of south Wales. More than 400 jobs are at risk at the Swansea head office and 130 shops, mainly in the South and South-west of England.

Receiver Paul Jeffrey of accountants KPMG said Dunn & Co would continue to trade for the time being and he hoped to find a buyer. Losses of £1 million a year were a result of the company's expanding market.

"Dunn & Co is a well-known High Street brand and we are very confident that it can be sold as a going concern. It has been around for a long time. We are plucking our hopes on someone thinking they can run it better."

The name dates back to 1886 but its formula of tweeds and formal suits, sold in small shops, has become steadily more difficult to operate profitably. The company first went bust in 1991 but the name was saved, with 38 shops, by Hodges.

Two years ago there was another restructuring and the bulk of the company is now owned by venture capital company Cliven. Sales last year were £26 million.

• A total of 336 jobs will be lost today at Crawfords, the Scottish bakery chain which went into receivership in September.

Receivers have decided to close 47 shops with the loss of 270 jobs, while a bakery in Edinburgh is shedding 68 staff. Another 394 staff are being kept at 37 shops and in the restaurant division as receivers try to sell parts of the business as a going concern.

£50 a head the cost of Halifax changing status

changing status

Teresa Hunter

PLANS by the Halifax building society to become a bank will cost each of its savers and borrowers around £50, as the total conversion bill soars to around £200 million.

Profits at Britain's biggest mortgage lender look set to fall this year — dragged down by the on-going cost of merging with the Leeds Permanent and abandoning its mutual status. Yet 10 million of its members can look forward to a windfall of around £1,000 in June if, at a special meeting in February, they give the green light for the Halifax to become a public company.

Next month members will receive a transfer statement, which, like a prospectus, will outline the society's reasons for becoming a bank.

The statement will highlight pre-tax profits of £752 million for the nine months to October 31, which

Watchdog to pull plug on children's cash prizes

on children's cash prizes

YOUNG and short of pocket money? Want a couple of grand? Then why not run up a soaking great phone bill trying to win the money? writes Nicholas Bunnister.

Competitions using premium rate phone numbers have been booming as children catch the gambling habit nurtured by the National Lottery frenzy.

Children under 16 are banned from the entering the Lottery but nothing prevents them from taking part in — and sometimes winning — phone-line competitions offering cash prizes. Premium line prizes for children do not come in the multi-million pound league. Top which is probably about £1,500.

So after a consultation period, ICSTIS plans to change its code of practice for the 265 million premium rate competition sector so children under 18 will be unable to win cash prizes in premium rate competitions.

Players ring up to find out if they have won and how much they have won. In games like these the only sure winners are the phone companies, who get their cut of the call revenue regardless.

Christmas cheer

Vauxhall buys back into vans

Mark Miller
Deputy Financial Editor

Vauxhall is joining forces with Renault in a £180 million project expected to create at least 900 jobs in Britain and re-establish the Luton-based manufacturer in the van market.

The deal involves IBC Vehicles, which is 62 per cent owned by Vauxhall's US parent, General Motors, manufacturing a medium-sized van to be developed at Renault's French design centre.

Production of the van will not start until the turn of the century, in the meantime, Renault will supply IBC with

Blunder rectified on the double

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SCROOGE appeared on the scene yesterday before Halifax customers had even thought about spending an early Christmas present — double pay-outs disbursed from a cash machine, writes Teresa Hunter.

The bumper payments were made by a Halifax machine in Commercial Street, Leeds, after a member of staff put £20 notes in a £10-note compartment by mistake.

The machine merrily churned out £20 notes instead of tenners — until an honest customer reported the error.

The society had precise records of the 25 customers who benefited from the

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Australia 2.062	France 4.522	Italy 2.516	Singapore 2.29
Austria 17.51	Germany 2.532	Japan 1.557	South Africa 7.85
Belgium 62.10	Greece 40.432	Netherlands 2.645	Spain 213.00
Canada 2.24	Hong Kong 12.84	New Zealand 2.205	Sweden 11.312
Cyprus 0.705	India 80.12	Norway 10.57	Switzerland 2.185
Denmark 7.225	Ireland 0.277	Portugal 170.805	Turkey 170.805
Finland 7.898	Israel 5.16	Saudi Arabia 6.342	USA 1.075

Supplied by NatWest Bank (including Indian rupee and Brazil shilling).

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OECD says some efforts to meet European currency criteria are short-sighted and may harm growth

Budget cutters warned

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

EUROPEAN countries intent on slashing budget deficits to qualify for monetary union in 1999...

manance would raise material living standards as well as provide the resources to meet long-standing social goals...

Target Emu: big four on course?

Table with 4 columns and 4 rows of data, likely representing economic indicators for different countries.

fundamental fiscal adjustments. The report added that concrete plans for cutting budget deficits were only half the solution...

the use of scarce resources as well as to enhance innovativeness and the adaptability of OECD economies...

ularly in Europe, these problems have been aggravated by the rise in structural and long-term unemployment during the past 25 years...

for the next two years. The EU is expected to see prices rise by only 2 per cent a year in 1997 and 1998.

News in brief

Money supply figures increase rate fears

THE City last night shortened the odds on a new year rise in interest rates after Bank of England figures showed a sharper than expected growth in the money supply last month...

Trainspotter's delight

GERMAN and Italian trains could be running on the £2.8 billion Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link when it opens in 2003...

Watchdog claim 'unfounded'

BRITISH Telecom's claim that Optel's director-general, Don Cruickshank, had usurped powers properly held by the Trade and Industry Secretary...

Dominion breaks 50pc barrier

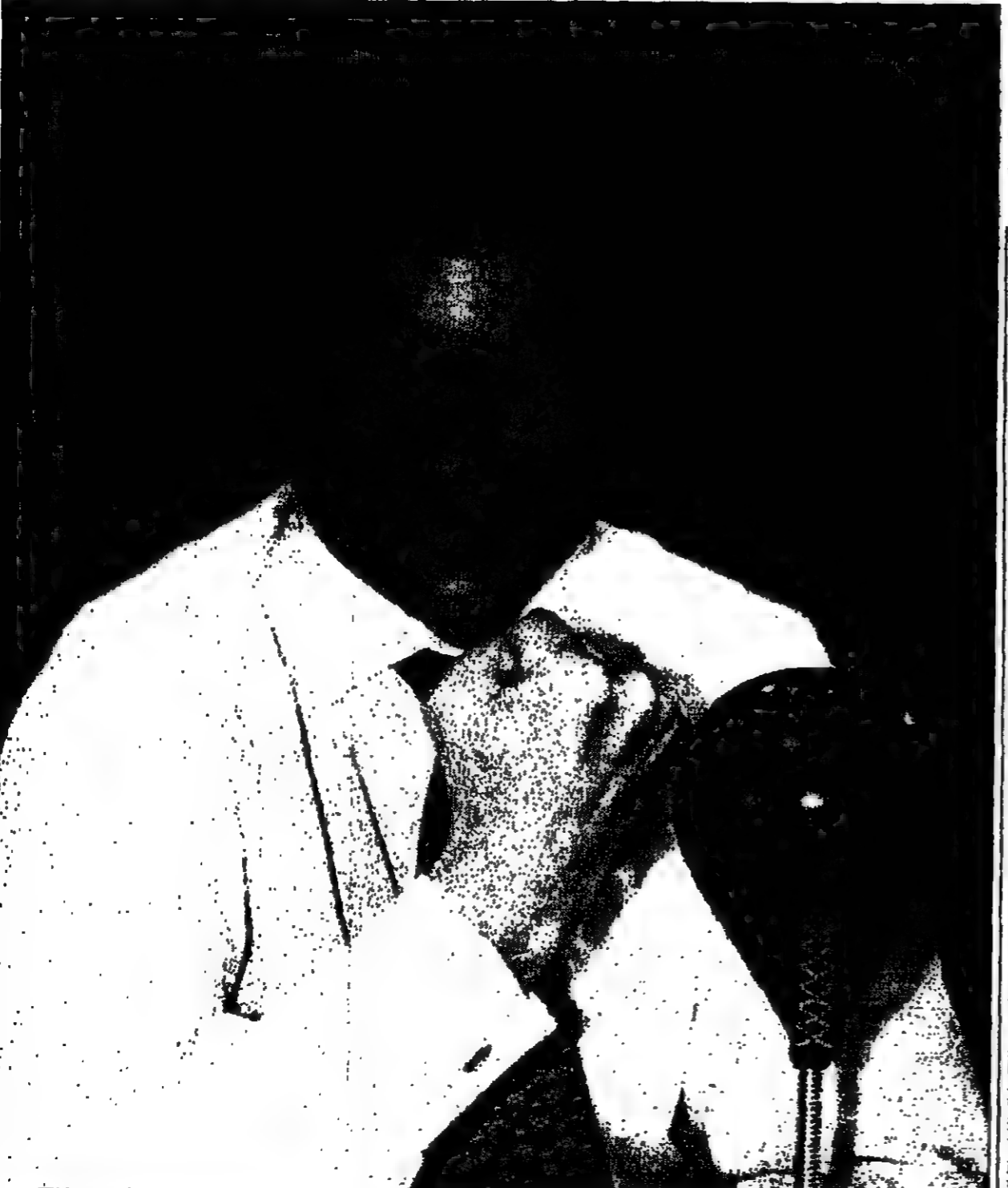
MORE than half the shares in East Midlands Electricity passed into American hands last night when Dominion Resources said it had bought 23.7 million shares in the regional electricity company...

Airtours prepares Med cruise

AIRTOURS, the UK's second-largest tour operator, is joining with cruise operator Carnival to buy the Italian cruise ship company Costa Crociere next spring...

Rank fails to win applause

SHARES in Rank Group slumped by 94/9p to 417/4p yesterday despite finalisation of the sale of its holiday coach business...



Pugnacious Archie Norman says Asda's sales growth has eclipsed all rivals

Asda beats rivals without resorting to card tricks

ROGER COWE on stores chief punching home simple message

ARCHIE Norman presented his first results as chairman of the Asda supermarket chain yesterday with the same combination of soaring figures and populist rhetoric that became a habit in his five years as chief executive...

result of maintaining simplicity and a focus on value for money, while rivals added cost with gimmicks such as loyalty cards. Asda has tested a loyalty card scheme in 20 stores but is not ready to go ahead across the chain...

Property dealer cleared of bribing tax investigator

DAVID Shamoon, the 66-year-old property dealer famed for having spent £38 million in London casinos over a nine-year period, was yesterday declared not guilty on a charge of bribing a senior tax officer...



David Shamoon: Judge orders acquittal

October, Mr Shamoon - a businessman believed to have links with the Kuwaiti royal family - pleaded not guilty to having provided Mr Alcock and his mistress, Michelle Corrigan, with an all-expenses-paid holiday in Marbella in return for protection from investigation into his tax affairs...

Lawsuit empties GKN's coffers

THE engineering group GKN suffered a setback in the US yesterday when it lost the first round of a legal battle in North Carolina against its own franchisees which could cost the group up to \$554 million (\$234 million)...

PRODUCT RECALL NOTICE Waitrose prepacked Mince Pies Waitrose 6 Shortcrust mince pies Waitrose 12 Shortcrust mince pies Waitrose 6 Luxury mince pies Waitrose 6 Select mince pies The mincemeat in a few pies has been contaminated with small pieces of rubber Customers who have purchased any of the above packs dated before 15 January are requested to return them to us. A full refund will be given as well as an alternative product. No other mince pies are affected Waitrose apologises for any inconvenience that this may cause. WAITROSE food shops of the John Lewis Partnership Waitrose Limited, Bracknell, Berkshire

Handwritten text at the bottom center: مكتبة من الاعمال

ring

troublesome whip rule is hit for six

Chris Hawkinson

CHANGES to the controversial whip rule, which brought racing so much unnecessary bad publicity during the recent flat season, mean that from next February jockeys cannot be handed merely for hitting a horse more than six times in a finish. This is the crucial point in a thorough revision of the rule announced yesterday by the Jockey Club, concerned that the old instructions to stewards were penalising good riding. "People had become obsessed with counting strokes," said Christopher Hall, chairman of the disciplinary committee. "So we have done away with the six-hit trigger mechanism which was causing the difficulties and have given the stewards greater discretion. "We have set out clearly the good ways of using the whip and also examples of improper riding. In future stewards will assess a jockey's performance against these criteria. "Veterinary officers will be asked to examine all placed horses and a random selection of others after a race and will report findings to the stewards. "Thus the emphasis in future will be on how the whip is used rather than how many times it is used. There are 11 examples of misuse or improper riding in

the new instructions, including raising the whip above the shoulder, hitting rapidly without regard to a horse's stride, hitting when a horse is showing no response, hitting other than on the quarters or shoulder and hitting with excessive frequency. Excessive use will depend on whether the numbers of hits was reasonable and necessary over the distance they were given and the degree of force used. Hall explained that once the stewards, who will attend a training day to absorb the new rules, were satisfied an offence had been committed they would consult with the stewards' secretaries for advice on penalties handed out in similar instances; consistency being the aim here. Although the revised instructions represent a relaxation, stewards have been asked to enforce strictly with serious offences and a four-day suspension will be the minimum for excessive force. If a horse has been injured the case is likely to be referred to Portman Square. Hall was delighted to report that there were no instances of horses being injured last season. Calls from the RSPCA and others for horses to be disqualified when a jockey has been found guilty of excessive use have sensibly been ignored by the Jockey Club. But Bernard Donigan, spokesman for the RSPCA, is not unhappy with the new in-

Hereford

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 1.20 Night City, 1.30 Street, 1.40 Urban Lily, 1.50 Maresdon Chase, 2.00 Maresdon Chase, 2.10 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 1.20 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 1.30 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 1.40 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 1.50 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.00 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.10 THE BARN HORSE CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 1.30 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 1.40 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 1.50 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.00 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.10 THE BARN HORSE CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 1.50 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.00 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.10 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.20 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.30 THE BARN HORSE CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 2.00 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.10 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.20 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.30 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 2.40 THE BARN HORSE CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 2.50 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 3.00 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 3.10 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 3.20 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 3.30 THE BARN HORSE CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 3.50 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 4.00 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 4.10 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 4.20 THE BARN HORSE CHASE, 4.30 THE BARN HORSE CHASE.

Blinfield first time today; HERHAM 12.30 Collier King, 2.30 Northbrook, HERFORD 2.30 The Wayward Bishop, ITTUXTON 2.30 Tambo, Indian Sunset, LINGFIELD 1.15 Melbourne Princess.



Bright prospect... Red Blazer makes an impressive start to his hurdlng career at Towcester

"I can't complain about what they've done. The greater involvement of the vets is a step in the right direction," he said. Of once immediate concern is Boxing Day's King George VI Chase at Kempton in which Sound Man has been declared but is thought unlikely to run by Edward O'Grady.

partner, would almost certainly have chosen to ride One Man, who is now quoted at 8-13 by Hill's to win for the second successive year. At Towcester yesterday, Red Blazer lit up a grey afternoon with a resounding 13 lengths success on his hurdling debut. Trainer Henrietta Knight has big plans for the former top bumper horse.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 1.10 Maresdon Chase, 1.20 Maresdon Chase, 1.30 Maresdon Chase, 1.40 Maresdon Chase, 1.50 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 2.00 Maresdon Chase, 2.10 Maresdon Chase, 2.20 Maresdon Chase, 2.30 Maresdon Chase, 2.40 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 2.50 Maresdon Chase, 3.00 Maresdon Chase, 3.10 Maresdon Chase, 3.20 Maresdon Chase, 3.30 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 3.50 Maresdon Chase, 4.00 Maresdon Chase, 4.10 Maresdon Chase, 4.20 Maresdon Chase, 4.30 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 4.50 Maresdon Chase, 5.00 Maresdon Chase, 5.10 Maresdon Chase, 5.20 Maresdon Chase, 5.30 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 5.50 Maresdon Chase, 6.00 Maresdon Chase, 6.10 Maresdon Chase, 6.20 Maresdon Chase, 6.30 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 6.50 Maresdon Chase, 7.00 Maresdon Chase, 7.10 Maresdon Chase, 7.20 Maresdon Chase, 7.30 Maresdon Chase.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 1.40 Maresdon Chase, 1.50 Maresdon Chase, 2.00 Maresdon Chase, 2.10 Maresdon Chase, 2.20 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 2.30 Maresdon Chase, 2.40 Maresdon Chase, 2.50 Maresdon Chase, 3.00 Maresdon Chase, 3.10 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 3.20 Maresdon Chase, 3.30 Maresdon Chase, 3.40 Maresdon Chase, 3.50 Maresdon Chase, 4.00 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 4.10 Maresdon Chase, 4.20 Maresdon Chase, 4.30 Maresdon Chase, 4.40 Maresdon Chase, 4.50 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 5.00 Maresdon Chase, 5.10 Maresdon Chase, 5.20 Maresdon Chase, 5.30 Maresdon Chase, 5.40 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 5.50 Maresdon Chase, 6.00 Maresdon Chase, 6.10 Maresdon Chase, 6.20 Maresdon Chase, 6.30 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 6.40 Maresdon Chase, 6.50 Maresdon Chase, 7.00 Maresdon Chase, 7.10 Maresdon Chase, 7.20 Maresdon Chase.

Uttoxeter with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 1.10 Maresdon Chase, 1.20 Maresdon Chase, 1.30 Maresdon Chase, 1.40 Maresdon Chase, 1.50 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 2.00 Maresdon Chase, 2.10 Maresdon Chase, 2.20 Maresdon Chase, 2.30 Maresdon Chase, 2.40 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 2.50 Maresdon Chase, 3.00 Maresdon Chase, 3.10 Maresdon Chase, 3.20 Maresdon Chase, 3.30 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 3.40 Maresdon Chase, 3.50 Maresdon Chase, 4.00 Maresdon Chase, 4.10 Maresdon Chase, 4.20 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 4.30 Maresdon Chase, 4.40 Maresdon Chase, 4.50 Maresdon Chase, 5.00 Maresdon Chase, 5.10 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 5.20 Maresdon Chase, 5.30 Maresdon Chase, 5.40 Maresdon Chase, 5.50 Maresdon Chase, 6.00 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 6.10 Maresdon Chase, 6.20 Maresdon Chase, 6.30 Maresdon Chase, 6.40 Maresdon Chase, 6.50 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 7.00 Maresdon Chase, 7.10 Maresdon Chase, 7.20 Maresdon Chase, 7.30 Maresdon Chase, 7.40 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 7.50 Maresdon Chase, 8.00 Maresdon Chase, 8.10 Maresdon Chase, 8.20 Maresdon Chase, 8.30 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 8.40 Maresdon Chase, 8.50 Maresdon Chase, 9.00 Maresdon Chase, 9.10 Maresdon Chase, 9.20 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 9.30 Maresdon Chase, 9.40 Maresdon Chase, 9.50 Maresdon Chase, 10.00 Maresdon Chase, 10.10 Maresdon Chase.

Table with 2 columns: Race number, Race name. Includes 10.20 Maresdon Chase, 10.30 Maresdon Chase, 10.40 Maresdon Chase, 10.50 Maresdon Chase, 11.00 Maresdon Chase.

Uttoxeter with form guide. Includes race details and results for various events.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Uttoxeter, Hexham, Hereford, and Lingfield. Includes phone numbers and website information.

BT Global Challenge

Rescue alert as Concert loses mast

Heavy seas and equipment problems in the Southern Ocean: Simon Montague reports from on board Nuclear Electric

A RESCUE mission was under way last night to reach the stricken BT Global Challenge yacht Concert, which has been dismasted in the Southern Ocean 2,000 miles east of New Zealand.

Most of the mast was lost after one of the supporting cables snapped in heavy seas. None of the 14 crew was injured and the 67ft steel hull remains intact.

Concert was lying fifth when the mast collapsed. It followed reports of rigging problems on three other yachts in the 14-strong fleet, each skippered by professionals with fare-paying crews.

The fleet are now a little over halfway across the lonely Southern Ocean where there are no passing ships to lend emergency assistance.

The rescue mission was under way last night to reach the stricken BT Global Challenge yacht Concert, which has been dismasted in the Southern Ocean 2,000 miles east of New Zealand.

The race organisers had already faced up to the burning question: should we continue on the intended course, which had been lengthened by 450 miles to prevent us arriving in Wellington too early for the scheduled reception party?

On Friday night the news was relayed to the yachts: the longer course, confirmed only days earlier, was abandoned. The first boat reached the mark, an imaginary buoy at 52 degrees south, 120 west, a few hours later.

We have about two weeks left to close the gap on the leaders. As I write, Nuclear Electric is mid-fleet, with Commercial Union less than three miles ahead.

On deck there was a brief interlude of what passes for summer in these parts, with a moderate wind and a temperature of nearly 10C.

So far we have not experienced a full Southern Ocean storm but the vicious squalls that tear across these desolate seas are all too familiar.

Then the squall cloud hit, with the wind gusting violently to 40 knots. Nuclear Electric heeled over but remains eager as ever, driving up the face of waves 30ft high.

We cannot complain, this is what we signed up for: exhausting, exhilarating, terrifying stuff.



Leeds united... the club's players gather their thoughts beneath the glare of the Headingley floodlights as they prepare for the Pilkington Cup fifth round. PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRIS THOMSON

Scarlets blend with white rose

Eddie Butler on how Phil Davies has helped transport Llanelli's expansive style north to Leeds, who face Gloucester tomorrow

IT WAS a stay-in-doors kind of day at Leeds RUFC. Siberian rain fell on Chandos, the old pitch of Roundhay, who merged with Headingley in a sort of City-United venture in 1992.

The director of rugby did not have to endure their suffering for long. Inside his office overlooking Chandos a thick fog of condensation soon formed over the windows and Phil Davies could sit back and worry about the kettle boiling and the installation of burglar alarms around his new baby, £15,000 worth of performance-analysis computer.



Davies... in charge

South Wales Pollo. Davies, originally from Seven Sisters, describes that period in blue as "a strange sabbatical". "No hiding," said Richard Palmer-Jones, Leeds's development coordinator and cameraman at all their games.

They currently lie second in the Third Division behind Hyde, having lost to Morley, Wharfedale and Lydney. "It's always easy to say but we could have won all three games," said Davies. "But we didn't so we just look ahead."

static positions insisting on picking up the ball and setting up painfully slow rucks. Leeds may be in only the Third Division, where space opens up before well coordinated attacks, but at least they practise what they preach.

Referees to strike in Wales THE Welsh Rugby Union and its referees failed to resolve their dispute over match fees last night and tomorrow's strike by the officials will go ahead, writes David Plummer.

Cricket

Flower power blossoms

Paul Allott sees the former Zimbabwe captain enjoying his new-found freedom

ANDY FLOWER is no shirker and yet only six months ago he relinquished the captaincy of Zimbabwe because the job was affecting his overall performance.

with Dartmouth in the Birmingham league. Being a professional cricketer in Zimbabwe entails about six games a year and consequently Flower has sought employment in the Netherlands and has played and coached all over England, from Widnes to last summer's sojourn as a coach at Epsom college and playing for Eastbourne.

Ski Hotline advertisement with contact information and details about ski resorts in Europe and North America.

Chess

McShane proves his mastery at 12

Leonard Barden

TWELVE-year-old Luke McShane yesterday achieved Britain's youngest International Master norm by sharing second prize in the Caledonian Masters in Edinburgh.

three hours' play and finished half a point behind the winner, the Cambridge student Mark Ferguson.

Senior British championship. Unusually for a top chess player, both McShane's parents (now divorced) are journalists, and he too is following that route; last month the Sunday Express made him its chess columnist, yet another age record.

average Short's 1993 championship defeat by Kasparov, whom McShane has already played twice.

The first occasion was a speed game in 1993, when Kasparov afterwards declared: "Luke has a better chance of winning my title than Nigel".

Equestrianism

Welham in Whitaker double

John Kerr at Olympia

BRITISH riders may be short on numbers but continued to hold their own against a strong overseas challenge here in London yesterday when John Whitaker, who had taken the top prize the previous evening, completed a quick double in the P&O Events Accumulator.

Athletics

Livingston back to the big time against Jackson

Steven Downes

JASON LIVINGSTON, the Ujohost of seasons past, will race against Colin Jackson over 60 metres at Birmingham in the New Year, his first real test since returning to the sport last July from his four-year ban for steroid use.

Financially ruined by his legal campaign to have his ban lifted, Livingston may still be able to cash in on his bullet-fast start. Last weekend in Horsham he broke the indoor track's 50m record three times, recording 5.8sec, only 0.04sec off the 1983 British record.

Cricket advertisement for Winter Tour - Zimbabwe Day International, including contact information and a regular score update call.

SportsGuardian

CRICKET

Zimbabwe v England: first Test, second day

Dark clouds close in on England

David Hopps in Bulawayo

LIFE here changes imperceptibly. A reopened restaurant, a new shop, or even just a new face, is regarded as something of a marvel. It was appropriate, therefore, that England woke up to the second day of the first Test to discover that it was exactly like the first. There was the same enervating pitch, the same uninspired fast bowling, and yet more Zimbabwe resistance.

In their utilitarian wooden stands, assailed in turn by fierce sun and protracted rain, England's holiday-making supporters gazed upon another scene of frustration and wondered whether their suffering would ever cease. In Australia or the West Indies they surf the beaches, drink their cocktails and graciously accept whatever cricketing fate presents itself. But Zimbabwe? Surely there have to be some certainties in life.

Today should go some way to revealing England's fate in this series. Having conceded 376, they can establish their superiority over the next two days by scoring 500 on a feathered pitch and applying pressure on the final day. Alternatively the top six can make another hash of it and collapse against the leg-spin of Paul Strang. This being England on tour, both outcomes are entirely likely.

The one discouraging

image England must suppress is the final act of a rain-abbreviated second day — that of their captain Michael Atherton, trailing from the field at tea after falling lbw to Strang's 11th delivery. The rudimentary conclusion is that this was nothing more than a batsman getting out after being hit on the leg. Wrap it in psychological relevance and England might as well catch the next plane home.

Atherton had looked on top of his game: feet moving decisively, the big-game player again making his unconvincing form in the warm-up games seem an irrelevance. Then Strang pushed through a quicker, flatter leg-spinner and Atherton, on 16, was ambushed on the back foot. As the rain fell, with England 48 for one, the memory of his dismissal was washed into the outfield, dripped from the eaves of the century-old pavilion and left a cold, damp feeling creeping down the back of every English neck.

"It is a smashing batting pitch, and to lose a wicket like that to leg-spin was a disappointment," said David Lloyd, England's team manager. "But this leg-spinner has taken his Test wickets at a cost of more than 60 runs each. I'm not about to put any demons into the minds of our batsmen."

Zimbabwe were not so disinclined. Andy Flower, whose 112 had prolonged their first innings into mid-afternoon, insisted: "Everybody sees

Atherton as the backbone of the batting. It was nice to get rid of him. The ball is turning from the rough for Paul Strang and I reckon we can put England under pressure." England are quite capable of doing that themselves.

They laboured for a further 23 overs yesterday to split Zimbabwe's seventh-wicket pair and needed twice as long to bowl them out. No bowler disappointed more than Mulally. If he bowled with reasonable economy, it was a fraudulent economy as he repeatedly failed to make the batsmen play. Silverwood, after his first four overs went for 25, could be reasonably content with his debut.

Strang played perkily for his 38, particularly against Tufnell, but it was Andy Flower, 58 overnight, whose six-hour resistance allowed no respite. He played with diligence and good organisation. There was occasional invention, too, notably when he reverse-swept Tufnell to reach his third Test hundred.

Strang dragged a weary delivery from Mulally into his stumps as Zimbabwe's last three wickets fell in eight balls. Flower, sweeping in Tufnell's next over, was caught off his gloves by the wicketkeeper Stewart, and Olunga was neatly held later in the same over by Knight at silly point. After the torment that had passed before, it all seemed ridiculously easy.

Paul Abbott and scoreboard, page 15



Walk-off part... Atherton leaves the stage after falling lbw. PHOTOGRAPH: HOWARD SILBERT

Christmas on tour is a proper turkey



Frank Keating

HAVEN knows, the England cricketers in Zimbabwe must be yearning for Dominic Cork at his bounding, bonny best. With another Test next week, he'd stir up their pudding Christmas all right, wouldn't he?

Actually, I looked up Cork's published diary to find how he was rallying the troops in South Africa on Christmas Day last year. "Dec 25: A cricketer gets used to Xmas Day in the sun, round the pool or on the beach. After we Gregory opened his presents we went round to the house my folks are renting. ... How many ways are there of saying it's raining again? I have received the East Midlands Sports Personality award jointly with Forest's Steve Stone. Very honoured."

Well, not even the diaries of celebrated writers down the century have summoned much relish for Christmas Day, witness Joe Orton's one-liner thirty December 25s ago — "Had bacon & cauliflower for lunch; 90 kilos already dead on the roads" — or Evelyn Waugh's 30 years before that in 1956 — "Felt ill. Family fun. Nearly sick on way home."

Or, come to that, Noel Coward's exactly half a century ago in 1946: "Spent day in bed talking on telephone to Sybil, Graham, Gladys. Had delicious food, including caviare. Later, party at Binkie's."

Or Kenneth Williams's 25 years later: "Watched television. Christmas With The Stars. Stars indeed! What a JOKE. It's all 'BBC jobs for the boys'. Utter muck."

By then, in the early 1970s, England's cricketers abroad were enjoying the obligatory (since wretchedly forced) fancy-dress party, and doubtless the team's kiddy-master will again sell next week's pictures to the highest-bidding tabloid. Makes you feel as Evelyn Waugh did in 1936.

To be sure, in his published journal of England's 1984 Christmas on the England tour to India, Vic Marks was so smitten by the idea that he devoted three detailed pages to the fancy-dress carnival — joint winners, Lord help us, Allan Lamb and Neil Foster as

Mr and Mrs Gandhi — in the Grand Hotel, Calcutta.

Coincidentally, Marks's observations came on the very same December 25 that Andy Warhol, then New York's icon, was making a similar hunched fist of dressing up. "Tried to dye my eyebrows," he told his diary, "then my hair, but wasn't in the mood."

Marks's entry did admit: "A cricketer's Christmas on tour resembles an obstacle course, something to survive with the minimum of discomfort. We feel obliged to enjoy ourselves yet we would all prefer to be shivering back in our own homes with loved ones."

In that regard, the most touching Christmas Day entry in a cricketer's log I have come across was scribbled 86 years ago by the Middlesex bowler J T "Old Jack" Hearne on the MCC's Australian tour of 1897-98.

"Melbourne: Very very hot. Most indulgent in an extra turn in bed. Chaps not been away from home at Christmas before seen a bit down. Ted Wainwright especially. He remarked very feelingly at breakfast, 'I wish I was back in the little cottage turning the meat.'"

A DOZEN years before Marks's tour, Tony Lewis had taken England to India, and his daily journal crackled with wit and observation. Lewis's first Test as captain, at Delhi, began on December 21 and ended on Christmas Day. What reading it makes.

"Dec 21: A R Lewis, Irv Chandrasekhar & I. What a debut. I retreated, head down, through all those baying Indians. I could not believe it. I flopped on the dressing-room chair. A duck. Was it really true? The England players were generous but I have to face the past, and the frightening future. Nought behind me, and what next time?"

"Dec 25: Can Christmas ever be the same again? England 207 for 4 to win by 6 wickets. Champagne, telegrams... I write these notes in bed. Me, 70 not out and Man of the Match! I was six overs getting off the mark: almost forever... I just wish I had known I fancy going to make 70 not out four days ago."

In 1873, 125 Christmas Days ago, W G Grace left his bride in a Melbourne hotel, borrowed a gun and drove in a buggy deep uncountryside in the hope, he wrote in his diary, "of bagging some kangaroos, though no such luck". He returned to his wife by midnight. Next day, Boxing Day, against 18 men of Victoria, the amazing Grace took 10 wickets and hit 51 not out.

Clark tipped as FA technical director after quitting Forest

NOTTINGHAM FOREST'S formal announcement of their manager Frank Clark's resignation came as no shock yesterday, the team being without a win in 16 Premiership matches and looking doomed to fall off the gravy train. But Clark's next move may prove more of a surprise, writes Peter White.

The highly regarded 53-year-old has for some time been linked with the Manchester City hot seat and also

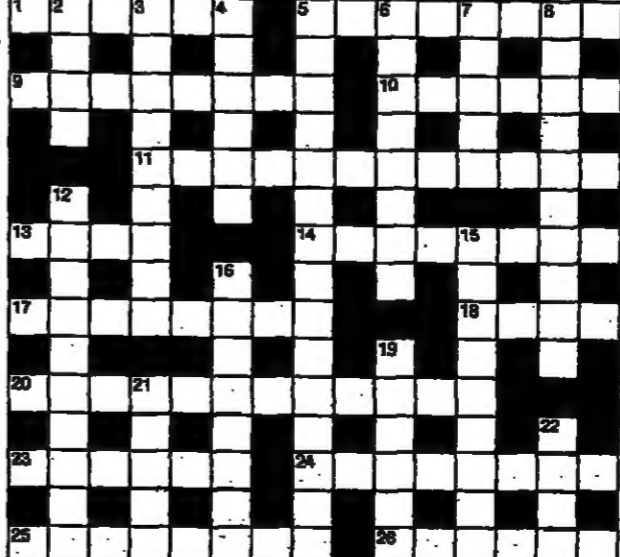
admits he has had "speculative offers" to work abroad, but insiders believe he may opt instead to become the Football Association's technical director.

In a further turn of the managerial merry-go-round, that appointment might also see Howard Wilkinson, linked to the FA post after his departure from Leeds United, taking up the reins at Forest.

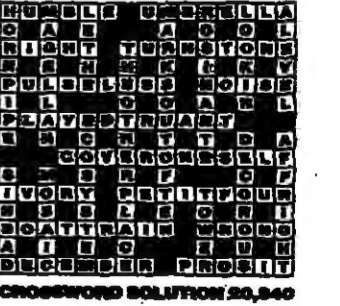
Clark's sacrifice, page 14

Guardian Crossword No 20,841

Set by Fawley



- Across**
- Opera written in English style (6)
 - Dad's leading turn-over of one market in type of beef (8)
 - Queue endlessly for chemical preservative (8)
 - Deputy tours state, giving lively performance (6)
 - Exotic cocktail ingredient? Slip is a turn-off — almost revolting (7,5)
 - Look — by an eye-catching design (4)
 - Musical rejected by Roman censor not running smoothly (8)
 - "Brown Sugar" re-mix made, including unusual backing (8)
 - A chance to start a game (4)
 - Background is reported quiet. Here's the picture... (12)
- Down**
- Bear a derivative expression? (4)
 - Flagging, when trying to get across (5)
 - Makes a great show of climbing mountains with murr? (6)
 - It makes a point for writers of sketches (6,3)
 - Has shown up to collect a vehicle number, that's plain (8)
 - Traveller given wise advice used lead-free (5)



- Computer range said to offer outdoor protection (10)
 - Familiar situation — he opens last letter, not a circumlocution (4,8)
 - It's vital to see this building (8)
 - Resident worker supports regular activity (8)
 - Women's ringing me, demonstrating Mercury, perhaps? (6)
 - Noisy space-explorers left (5)
 - Mechanic man — a bit lacking up top (4)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 20** Start? Then call our solutions line on every 3000 3000, calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by AT&T

ABSOLUT GENEROSITY.

The adrogyny that you can see in Liam Gallagher, Jarvis Cocker and Johnny Rotten is also, according to anthropology, one of the hallmarks of the shaman: the performer healing through his own sickness.

Jon Savage on the first artist of Britpop

Friday Review front